

The Outlook

NOVEMBER 29, 1922

M. CLEMENCEAU'S VISIT TO AMERICA

FATHER VICTORY, as Georges Clemenceau was called by his fellow-countrymen, became during the closing months of the war the impersonation of France's will to survive. Now as a visitor to America he remains an impersonation of that spirit. Because we welcome that spirit we of America greet him.

Eighty-one years of age, having served his country during two German invasions, having seen the idea of self-government and civil liberty emerging from the confusion of the rule of Napoleon III take form in the present Republic, having been the joyous warrior of politics for nearly fifty years, having followed throughout the guidance of what has been called by his biographer his "vigilant and apprehensive patriotism," having seen the partial failure of his efforts to safeguard France against the dangers he still apprehended even in victory, he believed that he still had a message from France which America would be willing to hear.

No one who saw him preside at the plenary sessions of the Peace Conference at Paris, heard his incisive decisions, watched his mobile hands gloved in gray, caught his expressions of quick understanding, can doubt his intellectual acuteness, his sense of humor, and his alert will. He has the mind that looks forward.

He is not a stranger to America. Over fifty years ago he lived and taught here for a while. Since his earlier sojourn the sky-scrapers have arisen (not high enough, he says; not near enough to the moon) and the Nation has grown proportionately in extent and in stature.

Almost immediately following his arrival he visited the grave of Theodore Roosevelt. Of course his schedule included a call upon ex-President Wilson and President Harding.

BUSINESS MEN AND INTERNATIONALISM

WITH the continuing failure of governments to settle by political action the economic problems growing out of the World War, far-sighted business men are beginning to ask whether they cannot do something through the ordinary channels of commercial relationship. The creation of an International Chamber of Commerce is the latest contribution of business men to

the movement for world peace and unity. The International Chamber was formed two years ago in Paris to study the great field of economics and trade. It has now become truly international in scope, with a membership embracing nearly thirty nations of North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

The American section is now at work preparing a programme for presentation to the next annual Convention, which will be held in Rome in March, 1923. Mr. Merle Thorpe, editor of the "Nation's Business," which is the organ of the United States Chamber of Commerce, informs us that the American section is engaged in the following work:

It is evolving a basis for a uniform ocean bill of lading.

It has prepared a comprehensive code for international arbitration to eliminate costly and ineffective litigation between business men of different countries, and for the purpose of making this plan effective an International Court of Arbitration already has been named.

It is working on a plan for the collection and dissemination of comparable statistics.

It is about to publish a list of pre-

ferred definitions of trade terms used in international transactions.

It is urging the removal of export taxes which are a hindrance to the freedom of trade.

It is committed to a policy of instituting measures for the conservation of fuel and raw materials.

It is urging unification of legislative provisions with respect to bills of exchange and other export problems.

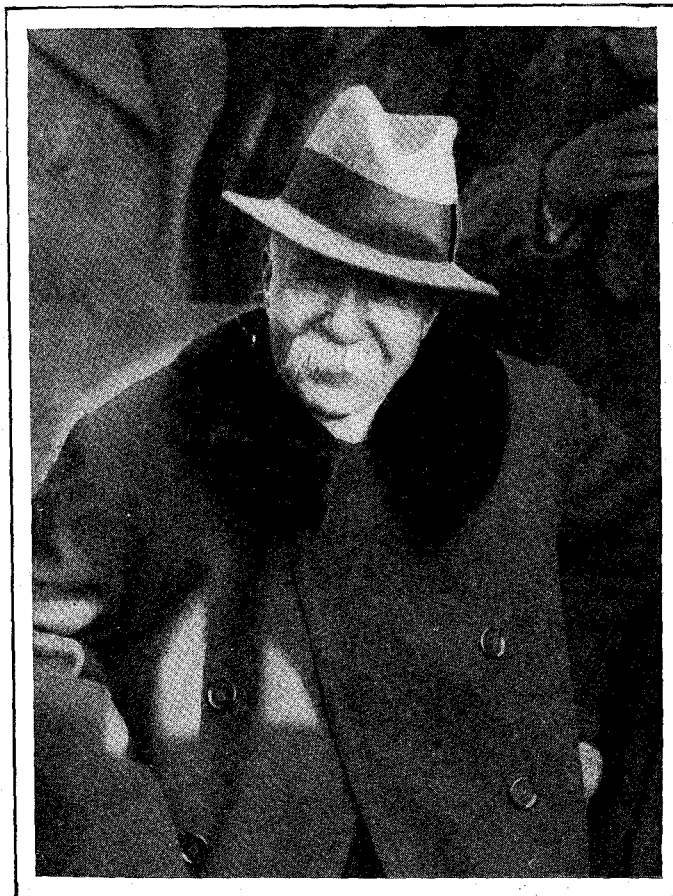
It is calling attention of governments to the burdensome war-time restrictions in regard to passports and visés.

It is making a careful study of the great losses which business men suffer through lack of adequate laws for the protection of international property and for the suppression of methods of unfair competition.

It will suggest remedial measures for the protection of trade-marks, copyright, etc.

It is engaged in drafting a uniform basis for legislation which will remove existing unfair and burdensome tax practices, such as double taxation.

It is hoped that a representative delegation of two hundred leading American business men will attend the meeting at Rome in March. A large group will leave New York about the middle of



(C) Keystone

CLEMENCEAU ARRIVING IN AMERICA

February, and will visit important trade centers on the Continent and along the Mediterranean on the way to Rome.

One of the great advantages of this particular kind of an industrial convention is that its deliberations and recommendations can be reported back to almost every community in the United States through the United States Chamber of Commerce. If the business men of this country can really unite on a few fundamental principles of international economic relationship, they will find Congress very willing to embody their ideas in necessary legislation. The trouble is that up to this time the "business interests" of the United States have been too often more vitally interested in log-rolling on tariffs than they have been in the adjustment of international trade and finance.

GOVERNOR SMITH AND SENATOR COPELAND

If all candidates victorious in the recent election can make as good an impression upon their communities as Governor-elect Smith and Senator-elect Copeland made in New York the other day at a dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, they will enter upon their political duties with the good wishes of all their constituents.

Mr. Smith in beginning his speech, and alluding to the popularity of brevity in after-dinner speakers, told the following entertaining story:

I remember one day there was quite a hearing in the Assembly Chamber on an appropriation bill to build what was known as the great western gateway between the city of Schenectady and the village of Scotia, and spread around the chamber were a number of maps and engineers' profiles, and big long and lengthy arguments going into hours and hours. And a clergyman came down from Schenectady who, when it was his time to talk, rose and said: "Governor, I am a great believer that short sermons bring large collections."

"Now," he says, "everybody in Schenectady wants this bridge, and if you give it to them you will be helping the city of Schenectady, you will be helping the State, you will be helping the country, and God will bless you for it." And he sat down. When he was on his way out one of the attachés of the Executive Chamber stopped him and said: "Father, that was quite a long speech you made."

"Well," he says, "I heard he was going to sign the bill, anyway."

Governor Smith then proceeded to a serious statement of some of the policies which he would endeavor to carry out when he is inaugurated as Governor. He asked the business men whom he was addressing to support the completion, maintenance, and effective operation of the Erie Canal, which is now known as

the "Barge Canal;" to get behind the movement known as the Port Authority for planning and reorganizing the harbor facilities of New York City; to get behind a movement for the inauguration of a sound and effective budget system in the State Government; to support him in his urgency of a reorganization, coordination, and simplification of the government departments in the State; and to urge in connection with this organization "a Constitutional amendment to lengthen the term of the Governor. It is a positive joke to be electing a Governor for this State for two years. Everybody knows it; he is just in there a year and a half when he is running again, and I say this in a very serious way, because I have had the personal experience."

Senator-elect Copeland is a physician, and has been Health Commissioner of the City of New York, from which position he has just been promoted to the United States Senate. He urged a policy of sound hygienic laws for the Federal Government, not only for domestic reasons, but because of the menace of disease coming in from foreign countries. Apropos, he told the following interesting story:

Last year there came into this port a ship from which the United States Public Health Service landed four persons suffering from pneumonia. They were sent to the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn. The hospital authorities, becoming alarmed, telephoned me, and I assigned one of the Board of Health experts to see these four cases of pneumonia. Not one of them had pneumonia, but three had well-developed cases of typhus, one of the most dreaded of epidemic diseases.

The ship which brought them here was tied up at the dock and the passengers were on the dock ready to be dispersed through the city and the country. I sent them back on the ship and the ship back to Quarantine for the Federal authorities to re-examine. More careful inspection revealed nineteen cases of typhus on that ship, and a number of the victims died in our harbor.

This experience and the resulting events brought home to me the real attitude of Congress toward National and international health matters.

It seemed to me that such a slip-up must be due to lack of personnel and equipment at Quarantine, so I went to Washington to discuss the situation with the Federal authorities. It was frankly admitted that such a lack existed, and I was told that \$500,000 was the sum needed to guard this port against disease from abroad. To my amazement, no request for the money was pending and no plan had been made to ask Congress for the money.

On my demand to know why, I was informed, reluctantly, that Congress looks with unfavorable eyes upon requests for the Public Health Service and treats all its requisitions with coldness.

Determined to have New York and the country protected, I marched over to Congress. Here I was sent from pillar to post, and finally I landed in the office of the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House, Congressman Good, of Iowa. He listened to my story, but seemed unimpressed. Finally he said:

"Doctor, the trouble with you New York men is that you want a lot of money to beautify your Harbor." My reply was: "I don't care whether you beautify the Harbor or not. I never see it. I don't care whether you protect New York or not—the Board of Health of New York City will do that, but what we are trying to do is to save Iowa."

Immediately Mr. Good lost his listless air.

"Iowa," he shouted. "Do you mean to say that Iowa is in danger of typhus?"

"Certainly I do," I said.

"Well," said Mr. Good, "that's different. Something must be done about it at once."

And Congress appropriated a half million dollars to guard New York Harbor against the admission of foreign disease.

Senator Copeland made an impassioned appeal for the treatment of immigrants in accordance with the laws of humanity rather than the laws of mathematics. He denounced the present three per cent Immigration Law, and said (we think with reason, for The Outlook has long made the same contention) that you cannot admit immigrants to the United States either safely or humanely on the percentage system. Dr. Copeland's expressed views on the immigration problem were so sound that we hope much from his influence in passing reasonable legislation on this complicated and important question when he enters the Senate chamber.

AN EXPERIMENT IN RAILWAY OPERATION

It is useless to blink the fact that there is a very large, and possibly growing, body of public opinion in this country inclined to favor Government ownership and operation of steam railways. At all events, there are thousands of plain, matter-of-fact Americans, neither radicals nor theorists, who are wondering whether the admitted political evils of Government ownership and operation would be greater than the evils which arise from selfish financiering and from conflicts between labor and capital under private ownership. The only practical experience this country has had in Government operation was during the war, an experience not wholly assuring to those who fear the red tape and inefficiency of bureaucracy. Americans who are open-minded on the question, and who wish to learn what is best for the general social and economic welfare without regard to preconceived notions or the dictates of self-interest,