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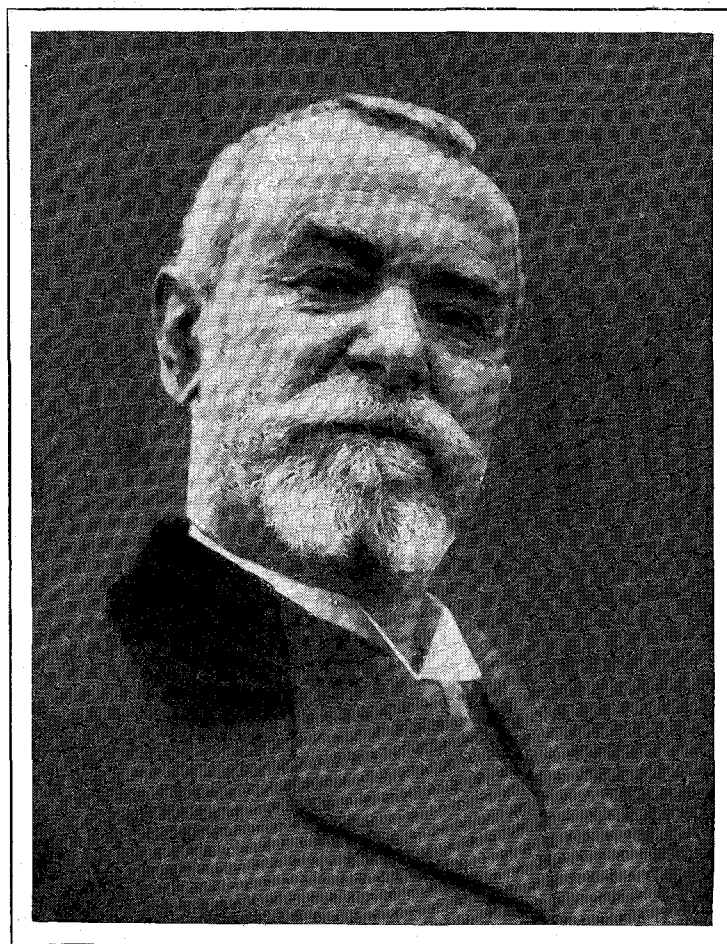
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Jusserand, Friend of America

UNHAPPILY, we have verified the report that Ambassador Jusserand of France, the dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Washington, is about to retire. So far no date appears to have been fixed for this great French patriot and diplomat to return to his beloved France; but, whatever the date, possibly about the first of the year, it will come too soon. All Americans who know him or know of him and who realize what his understanding friendship has meant to this country regret that it is to come at all.

It is not the business of citizens of this country to counsel the French Government as to its duty in providing for diplomatic representation anywhere. Even if it were seemly on other ground, it would be most unseemly for Americans above any other people to protest against the recall of ambassadors. America's record in this respect is not such as to warrant any advice to a country that has kept a great Ambassador here for twenty-two years.

During that time Jules Jusserand has had many a difficult task. In every case he has had to be the spokesman of a people who in history, temperament, standards of life, and ways of thinking are about as far removed from the American people as any liberty-loving, highly civilized, and democratic people can be. One of the very strongest attachments of France to Americans is the contrast of that land to their own country. If Americans understand France better now than they once did, it is largely due to the presence of this great and engaging son of France for these many years among us. In all this time he has never become expatriated; he is the better friend of America because of his devotion to his own country and his own people. He understands America as few foreigners have ever understood her, and better than many Americans do. He could be a close friend of President Roosevelt's without ceasing to be for an instant intensely French. He could be President of the American Historical Association, as he was in 1921, without allowing any



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Ambassador Jusserand, who is soon to retire from his post after twenty-two years' service

one to forget that he was a citizen of France. He has been the diplomat while he has been the historian, the scholar, and the stylist.

We hope that he will continue to come to America as America's friend. We hope that he will continue to help his countrymen to understand us as he has enabled us to understand them. And, above all, we hope that his release from official duties will free his delightful pen to run its course.

American Architects and the League of Nations

THE report from Brussels to the effect that at a private meeting of the League Council it was decided to bar American architects from participation in the competition for the new home of the League Assembly at Geneva is, of course, not quite a fair way of stating the case. There has been no discrimination by the

Council against American architects as such, but against architects of all countries not members of the League. By this ruling Russians, Germans, and Americans, together with nationals of a few other lesser countries, are equally barred.

By far the most interesting aspect of the statement is the revelation it makes of the fact that the Council has finally decided to throw open the designing of the new building to international competition. This has been done only after very careful debate. Those who were in Geneva this fall will remember how eagerly the question was discussed and how divided were the views on the matter. On the one side were those who desired an international competition; on the other, those who felt that, no matter how such a competition resulted, it could not fail to engender heart-burnings and unhappy rivalries. These latter insisted that the difficulty could be surmounted,

and even turned to excellent account, by inviting Switzerland to provide the architect. It would, they maintained, be a graceful act, would obviate the risks of an international competition, and would insure a building, if not strikingly original, at any rate efficient and in keeping with its surroundings.

On the whole, there is a great deal to be said for this view of the matter. The Swiss have done pretty well in Geneva, even in their modern buildings, and when it comes to a question of pure utility they are past-masters. Anyway, it is a cause of great satisfaction that the work is to be proceeded with. The present Salle de la Réformation, where the League Assembly has held its meetings for the last five years, can surely find no one to say a good word for it. In spite of all that the Geneva authorities can do with it, it still remains one of the most unsuitable places for such a gathering. Not a board in its floors but creaks and groans at the slightest movement, not a rafter that does not echo and re-echo with the utmost contrariness. No speech in the Assembly, just passed, was more vigorously applauded than that of the Swiss delegate, M. Gustave Ador, in which he expressed the hope that when they met next year it would be in a new hall of their own.

Japan's Foreign Policy

PREMIER KATO's recent declaration of foreign policy, made to his supporters at a rally of the Kensaikai, signifies a healthy tone in Japanese public opinion and is reassuring to all Japan's friends.

Japan to-day is a nation hard hit. Although more than a year has passed since the great disaster which wrecked so many hopes overnight, comparatively little has been done in the way of restoration. The blow was so swift and so heavy and the damage so severe and widespread that no one seems to have had the courage to envisage the result. At first, the great effort of the Government was to prevent the extent of the disaster being known, and in any and every way to keep up the spirits of the people. Japan, it was said, would recover quickly and amaze the world by her resource; business would not only be carried on as usual, but more prosperously than ever. The result of all this was that no one sat down to count the cost and to build again on a firm foundation. A reckless spirit of gambling spread through the country and every one sought to re-

trieve his fortunes, not by hard work, but by some lucky throw.

All that is best in Japan to-day is beginning to see the suicidal nature of such a policy and the necessity of bringing the nation's concept of itself more into accord with reality.

So Premier Kato announces a complete neutrality, as far as China is concerned. There is to be no dictation, and there are to be no adventures. In spite of the fact that Manchuria and Mongolia are still held to be "essential to Japan's existence," Japan is evidently determined to be patient, and to take no action that would not meet with the approval of the other Powers.

Similarly in the case of Russia Japan has done with aggression. In spite of the fact that she has large credits in Russia, and that the Nikolaievsk affair involving the murder of many of her nationals has never been settled, Japan will make no attempt to secure her rights by force. At the same time, she will not recognize the Soviet Government. "It has been clearly proved," declared the Premier to his followers, "that Communism, Anarchism, and extreme radicalism are incompetent to make good their promises. Only a steady national policy can lead to world safety and peace." If Viscount Kato can inspire confidence in such views throughout the country, a foundation for a real national upbuilding will have been laid.

The Election in Cuba

CUBA has its Presidential election in the same month and the same year and almost on the same date with the Presidential election in the United States. Perhaps less attention is paid to it here for that reason than would otherwise be the case.

The newly elected President of Cuba, General Gerardo Macado, the candidate of the Liberal and Popular Parties, is described by an American sympathizer with his views, Mr. V. M. Llorens, in a letter to the New York "World," as "a great friend of the American people, a great Cuban, a man of very high character, patriotic, very ambitious to do what is right, and a good, trusty friend." His opponent, ex-President Menocal, has long stood for the conservative interests, and, despite the mutual incrimination of parties and candidates so common in Cuba, has a high personal record.

It would be so phenomenal as almost to be miraculous if an election in Cuba,

whichever way it might result, were not disputed on the ground of frauds and fraudulent corruption. After the election of November 1 Cuban despatches to the American press stated that General Menocal intended to dispute the election of General Macado on such grounds, and would bring charges before the courts. Later despatches, however, it is gratifying to know, state that General Menocal has taken the part of a good sportsman and a good loser and has conceded the election of General Macado.

This year the Popular Party has thrown its lot with the Liberal Party, although four years ago it was in favor of Zayas and opposed to Gomez, the Liberal leader, who was making trouble and threatening revolution. Because of this dispute General Crowder went down to Cuba under implied threats of intervention by this country under the Platt Amendment, if the disturbance became too great. Zayas became President, and it was expected that he would be the opponent of Menocal in the recent election; but he withdrew in favor of Macado.

Chamberlain and Churchill

TWO names distinguished in recent British history reappear in the new Government of Great Britain. The sons of Lord Randolph Churchill and the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain will be Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Minister, respectively.

Perhaps Americans may be pardoned for welcoming the news that some one else than Lord Curzon is to direct Britain's foreign affairs. What the London "Times" once called "the pompous and pretentious manner" of Lord Curzon did not promote good understanding. The place which he had in the last Conservative Government is to be taken in the next one by Austen Chamberlain.

When Winston Churchill was elected to Parliament by a Conservative constituency, the question as to what should be done with him was one of the great problems of the moment in British politics. Mr. Baldwin answered the question by appointing him Chancellor of the Exchequer. He had been recently numbered among the Liberals, and the Conservatives could hardly be blamed for looking at him askance. He deserted them once. He has scourged them in season and out of season over many long years. Yet Winston Churchill has qualities which can make him a tremendous