

# The Outlook

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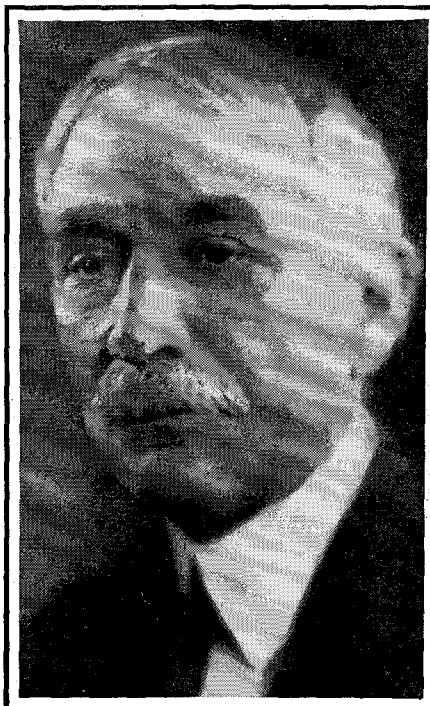
## Two Big Jobs to Do

**T**HE two diplomatic posts which are just now, for Americans, perhaps the most difficult in the world have been filled by the appointment of men who have not previously held official diplomatic position, but who none the less are diplomats. Edgar Addison Bancroft, of Chicago, goes to Japan and James Rockwell Sheffield to Mexico. The former will have to meet some difficulties newly made, the latter some that are old and apparently everlasting. There are reasons for believing that President Coolidge could hardly have chosen more wisely than he did. Each of the appointees has shown qualities of mind and of personality peculiarly desirable in the position to which he is now called.

Between the two men there are many resemblances. Both are by profession lawyers. Neither has been an office-seeker or, except incidentally and for a little while, an office-holder. Both are of Mid-West breeding, Bancroft a native of Illinois and Sheffield of Iowa. The one stayed home for his life-work, the other came East. Perhaps the places of their education influenced the selection of the places where they settled down to work. Sheffield went to college at Yale and later studied law at Harvard. Bancroft was educated at Knox College, that typical small college of the Middle West which is supposed to be the original of George Fitch's "Good Old Siwash." The sterling quality of small-college training is, apparently, exemplified in this alumnus of Knox. A degree in law from Columbia was, however, added to his college training.

Aside from his law practice and some important business connections, Mr. Bancroft has been an investigator of social problems. He has written books on the importance of moral sentiment in international settlements. He knows, from innate sympathy and from experience, how to adapt himself to the ways of people unlike his own.

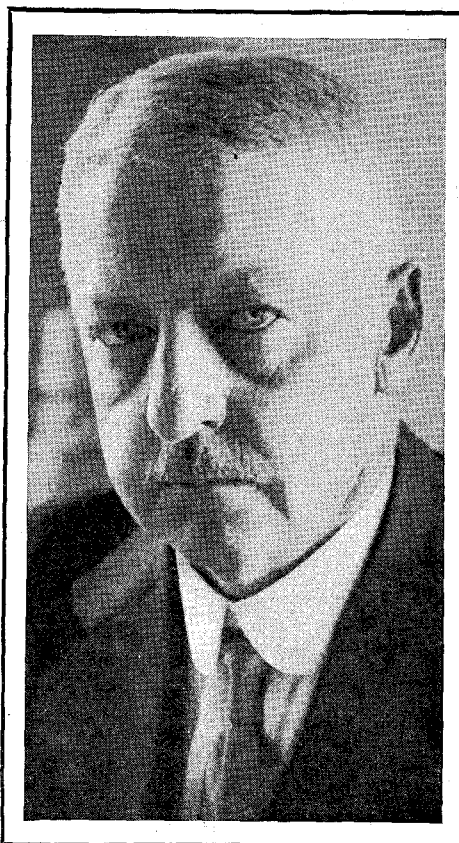
Mr. Sheffield has been successful in a large way in legal practice in New York City. He has been active in politics, but as an adviser rather than as a candidate.



Wide World Photos

Edgar Addison Bancroft, the new U. S. Ambassador to Japan

An organization Republican, he has managed to remain independent not alone in political judgment but in political action.



International

James Rockwell Sheffield, the new U. S. Ambassador to Mexico

He was an earnest and outspoken supporter of Mayor Mitchel, a Democrat, in his last campaign. Outside of the law he has held positions to which popularity based on character is prerequisite. He has served as President of the Union League Club and of the Republican Club. Politically and professionally he has been closely identified with Charles E. Hughes, now Secretary of State.

To predict large success for a diplomat is, in these difficult days, dangerous. It is within the facts, however, to say that these men possess qualities which should bring them large success in diplomacy.

## Peacemakers With Their Feet on the Ground

**A**LITTLE group of men from three nations sat down in Washington the other day to adjust differences between two of the nations. It is the American-Mexican General Claims Commission, and the sessions, it is expected, will continue for at least two years. Claims pending between the United States and Mexico and between their respective nationals since 1868 will be carefully reviewed and adjusted. The third nation represented is Holland. Dr. C. van Vollenhaven sits as presiding commissioner, an arbitrator from a disinterested country.

Secretary of State Hughes, in giving a welcome to the Commission, spoke of it as "an emphatic demonstration of our devotion to the cause of peace." Continuing, he said:

That cause triumphs not so much in ambitious programme or in counsels of perfection, not so much in expression of ideals, however important these may be, as in the practical work of removing causes of difference and in providing just settlements. These furnish the tests of our professions and the measure of our achievements. The convention under which you are organizing as a commission is a document in every line of which breathes the spirit of justice. No international document of recent years has more fully demonstrated that the highest national interest lies in maintaining the supremacy of the principles of international law, justice, and equity.

It is not too much to believe that our Secretary of State has here laid down

a great American doctrine upon which for the future our relations with the other nations of this hemisphere at least will be based. It may well be the doctrine, practical and almost universally applicable, upon which to base our relations with all nations. "We feel," said the Secretary, "that we are entering upon a new era of mutual confidence."

### Revolution Again in Central America

"OFF again—on again"—that seems to be the history of revolutions in Central America. The latest outbreak which has occurred in Honduras was only a few months removed from the previous political disturbance; in fact, the country had not yet been established on a new constitutional basis following the civil war of last spring. The exact cause of the new uprising is somewhat clouded, although it seems to be the result of the personal differences and political animosities which remained among the leaders of the previous trouble. A new President had not yet been elected; nor had certain revisions which were to be made in the Constitution been adopted.

An American "soldier of fortune," said to be the original of Richard Harding Davis's Captain Macklin, who has been participating in Central American revolutions in various countries for a number of years past, is reported to be chief of staff to General Gregario Ferrera, the leader of the revolt against the Provisional Government. This filibustering adventurer, one Jefferies by name, is said to have taken part in revolutions in Costa Rica, Salvador, Panama, and on previous occasions in the country where he is now operating, Honduras. He was on the staff of General Ferrara in the uprising a few months ago. As a rule he has not had to wait long "between revolutions."

When the pact of Amapala was signed on a United States warship off the west coast of Honduras early last May, with this Government as well as the other Central American Governments participating in the conference, it was thought that Honduras was pointed on the road to peace, and that the bloodshed and devastation, with great economic and financial loss, which had taken place, would be an animating motive to rest and quiet. But the political animosities en-

gendered seem to have been too strong an incentive to further fighting. The Presidency was the glittering prize on which rival eyes were fixed; and if it could not be obtained in one way it might be obtained in another; if not by peaceful means, then possibly by another political upheaval in the country and resort to arms.

Little actual fighting seems to have taken place in the present disturbance; and one report has it that this is due to the fact that each side knows that the other is well supplied with arms and ammunition. On this account, instead of resorting to the open arbitrament of arms and the field of battle, each is playing a game of strategy, moving pieces about like the pawns on a chessboard in the hope of entrapping the enemy in some tactical blunder which will result in his checkmate.

In the meantime the United States, which is most desirous of seeing peace established on a permanent basis in Central America, has been watching the situation closely and waiting for what appears to be the psychological moment before acting. The conference on Central American affairs which was held at Washington last year resulted in the signing of a treaty by the representatives of all five republics in which they agreed, among other things, not to recognize in any of the other countries a President who should have obtained the power by means of a *coup d'état* or revolution.

This agreement, it was thought, would have a tendency to discourage, if not entirely to prevent, revolutions in that part of the world. Honduras, however, did not wait long after signing that treaty, although her Congress had not yet ratified it, before staging one of the most destructive and sanguinary revolutions which had taken place in Central America for many years. It is believed, nevertheless, that eventually the agreement not to recognize leaders in those countries who gain control of the Government through revolutionary means will wipe out that form of political effort.

### America Withholds Action

THE plan to elevate the turret guns of thirteen capital ships of the United States Navy is to be, for the present at least, abandoned. Word to this effect comes, though not by direct statement, from President Coolidge. As the pro-

posal to elevate the guns had never been a definitely established policy of the Government, its temporary abandonment did not require a formal statement.

Great Britain, it will be remembered, was said to have protested against the plan to increase the range of our guns. The statement that such a protest had been filed was made in Parliament. Secretary Hughes was at the time in Europe, and our State Department declined to discuss the subject in his absence. No full or clear statement of the protest has ever been made.

It is very likely that this protest did not have a determining effect on the decision of the President. It is made clear that he does not regard abandonment of the project as the surrender of any rights under the agreement on limitation of armaments. He hopes to call another conference for further limitation of armaments, and he especially desires to avoid any action at this time which might tend to start competitive naval building. President Coolidge and Secretary Hughes very likely would have decided against elevating the guns even if the British Government had filed no protest. Congress, at the end of the recent session, declined to appropriate money for the work. The plan was originated and put forward by specialists of the Navy Department. Spokesmen of that Department, however, were at pains to say at the time of the British protest that the wishes of the Department of State would be deferred to cheerfully.

The President's decision is doubtless in line with the Harding-Coolidge-Hughes policy of promoting a frame of mind in America which will tend to progressive reductions of armaments. The elevation of the guns was not, after all, a matter of supreme importance. We have surrendered no right—and we remain firm in the belief that we have the right under the treaty to elevate the guns of our ships when necessary.

### The Privy Council and the Boundary Question

OUR attention has been called by Sir Robert Borden, the distinguished former Premier of the Dominion of Canada, to an inaccuracy in recent editorial comment in The Outlook upon the report (really a decision) of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in Great Britain as to the pending questions as to the Boundary Commission provided by