

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF AMERICAN STATES 1889-1928. By JAMES BROWN SCOTT. New York: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1931. pp. xlv, 551.

Simon Bolivar and Henry Clay a century ago foresaw the necessity for occasional conferences among the states of the American continent for the consideration of common problems. The idea had an abortive beginning in the rump conference of 1826 at Panama, at which the United States delegates arrived after the adjournment of the conference; but it had a fruitful development after its revival by James G. Blaine in the eighties. Since the First International Conference of American States at Washington in 1889, conferences have met in 1902 (Mexico), 1906 (Rio de Janeiro), 1910 (Buenos Aires), 1923 (Santiago), 1928 (Havana), and out of them have grown numerous supplementary conferences, such as the Washington Conference of 1929 on Arbitration and Conciliation, leading to important treaties.

The present volume assembles in systematic order the proposals and resolutions of these conferences, a task not heretofore performed. Dr. Scott, in a useful historical introduction, suggests that the Pan-American Union, in which all the American states except Canada are continuously represented, might well become the proposing body, and the periodic conferences the legislative bodies, subject, presumably, to the constitutional ratification of their acts. He also recommends a Pan-American Court of Justice, sitting in an original and an appellate chamber. The recommendations and resolutions of the conferences cover a wide range of subjects. Inasmuch as these American states in winning their independence emancipated themselves also from the historic fetters which poison the political life of Europe, we find manifest in their international resolutions a spirit of detached and unalloyed cooperation not so commonly discernible in their European counterparts. As early as 1889 the nations on this continent committed themselves to the denunciation of the principle of conquest as a title to territory and to the promotion of arbitration, as a consequence of which almost all of the many boundary disputes on the continent have been settled by arbitration. Their commercial, financial, and political relations, free from the ancient rancors which mark the European scene, are susceptible of consideration in open treaties requiring no alliances or diplomatic secrecy. The occasional departures stand out as esoteric. The economic, social, and legal cooperation manifest in their resolutions and treaties is not materially weakened by the realization that occasionally delegates on returning home have opposed the ratification of the conventions they signed or by the fact that many of the treaties were ratified by few states. The editors of this work have indicated wherever possible the extent of ratification, though in this respect complete accuracy is admittedly difficult of achievement. The volume is a convenient repository of elusive source material. It is a satisfaction to note that a chief contributor was the late Henry G. Crocker, an unostentatious but effective servant of international law.

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OUR LAWLESS POLICE. By ERNEST JEROME HOPKINS. New York: VIKING PRESS, 1931. pp. xiii, 379.

The "lawless enforcement of the law" (to use the phrase of Dean Pound) tends toward a situation where determination by police officials supplants due

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