The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that you will submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as additional to the estimates for the Department of State for the fiscal year 1912-1913, the recommendation that the salary of the Assistant Secretary of State be made $10,000; that the designation of that office be changed to Vice Secretary of State, Under Secretary of State, or Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs as the Congress may deem appropriate; and that provision be made for a private secretary at $2500; and that these provisions be made immediately available.

If there be objection to even so slight an increase as that of $7500 in the net appropriation for the Department, I consider the above changes so important that I should be quite willing that such possible objection should be entirely met by the corresponding reduction by $7500 of the existing appropriation of $25,340. "for meeting occasional and unforeseen expenses arising in connection with foreign trade relations which come within the jurisdiction of the Department of State under tariff legislation and otherwise, and in the negotiations and preparation of treaties, arrangements and agreements for the advancement of commercial and other interests, including the appointment of necessary employees at the seat of government or elsewhere", under the provisions of the Act of August fifth, nineteen hundred and nine.

I consider the post of Assistant Secretary of State the most poorly paid office in the whole government. Its duties, responsibilities and obligations (including financial obligations) differentiate it completely from all other assistant secretaryships. Instead of having specialized
or purely administrative functions or giving his attention to one branch of our domestic affairs the incumbent of this office must, as the alter ego of the head of the department, be thoroughly conversant with all important matters in our foreign relations, must share with the Secretary of State the duty of receiving ambassadors, ministers, Senators, Representatives, and other callers on important business, and has the necessary obligation of official entertaining. In the absence of the Secretary of State it is this official upon whom the President must rely and whom he must consult on any important international matter.

Hence it will be apparent, I think, that the present recommendation could not be objected to on any ground of creating a precedent.

With the reorganization of the Department at the beginning of the present administration there devolved upon the office of the Assistant Secretary of State greatly increased responsibilities, duties and obligations. It became in fact what in other countries is called, and correspondingly compensated, as Under Secretary or Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is in my opinion an office equal in dignity, as it is in importance, to that of ambassador in our diplomatic service. The present incumbent, for example, has twice been offered appointments to important embassies at a salary of $17,500, which, I am glad to say, he has been willing to decline in order to continue more arduous and important work in the Department.

Besides the need of an appropriate designation the utter inadequacy of the present compensation will be apparent from consideration of the fact that the heads of the least important legations in our foreign service receive $10,000., and in view of the further evident fact that this office should always be filled by a person competent to be an ambassador or to hold some other position of equally great responsibility and corresponding compensation.

In fairness and in justice the designation and salary of an office should be made consistent with the facts. The reorganized Department is able, I believe, to render vastly greater service to the commerce and the interests
interests of the whole country than was formerly possible. The office
in question is an essential directing force in that reorganization and
must always remain so. It is with the conviction that the proposed
change is very important to the present and future usefulness of the
Department and the foreign service that I strongly make the present
recommendation after nearly three years' careful observation of the
working of the Department charged with the foreign interests of the
United States.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,