

zanship optional, but not obligatory, for all residents in our island possessions; we would continue the present educational policy for the purpose of making all the islands self-governing communities, with, eventually, full control of their local affairs; we would return to the islanders for expenditure in the islands all moneys raised therein by Federal taxation; we would have the islands, like the Territories, subject to the laws and Constitution of the United States as interpreted by the Supreme Court; and we would extend over the islands the protection of the United States alike against foreign foes and domestic rebellion.

This is The Outlook's Insular Policy.

THE VICTOR AND THE SPOILS

"To the victor belong the spoils" was long a political battle-cry. A politician's power lay in his control of political perquisites. When a man went to Congress, his district expected two things of him: first, a slice of the "pork barrel" in the shape of liberal appropriations for public buildings or river and harbor improvements; second, the control of certain appointments in our Civil Service.

After long prodding by reformers, Congress in 1883 dealt a death-blow to the old system by passing a Civil Service law putting a considerable portion of the service on the merit system. As Congress also authorized the Executive to prescribe regulations for admission into the Civil Service, our Presidents have availed themselves of the opportunity greatly to extend the scope and efficiency of that service in general.

In particular, with reference to its efficiency in the Department of State, the Nation owes much to the executive orders of Presidents Cleveland, Roosevelt, and Taft. The State Department has control of the diplomatic and consular services. After the last wholesale looting of the latter service the friends of consular reform pressed their cause with increasing energy. Their bill was passed three years ago in a modified form and the service put upon a permanent tenure. But President Roosevelt, by later executive order, did what

Congress was then unwilling to do. The principle of appointments for fitness and after examination was established.

During the Roosevelt régime the same principle was applied in the diplomatic service as far as possible by Secretaries Hay and Root. In 1905 President Roosevelt's executive order provided for examinations for entrance into the lower diplomatic grades. As to promotions, the Hay-Root administration was one of appointment to the higher grades from the lower whenever possible. As an example, take the case of Mr. Lloyd Griscom. In 1899 he entered the service under Mr. Hay, as Secretary of Legation at Constantinople, afterwards becoming Chargé d'Affaires. He did well and deserved his successive promotions to be Minister to Persia and Ambassador to Japan, Brazil, and Italy.

The whole reform thus divides itself into the features of examinations and promotions.

I. As to examinations. Similar examinations to those established by Secretary Root in the consular service and confirmed by President Roosevelt, but more extended, have now, we are glad to say, been established by Secretary Knox in the diplomatic service, and confirmed by President Taft. Both the Examining Board and the number of subjects for the written examinations have been enlarged. An oral and a physical examination have been added. The subjects are announced as follows:

International law, diplomatic usage, and a knowledge of at least one modern language other than English, to wit, French, Spanish, or German.

The natural, industrial, and commercial resources and the commerce of the United States, especially with reference to the possibility of increasing and extending the trade of the United States to foreign countries.

American history, government, and institutions, and the modern histories since 1850 of Europe, Latin America, and the Far East.

The oral examination is to determine the candidate's alertness, general contemporary information, and a natural fitness for the service, including mental, moral, and physical qualifications, character, address, and general education, and good command of English.

In the determination of the final rating, written and oral readings are to be of equal weight, and the physical examination will be supplemental. No person with a general rating of less than 80 out of 100 is to be

eligible. The age limits are between twenty-one and fifty years. Eligible candidates are to be certified to the Secretary, and remain on the list two years.

But the examination feature contemplates a wider field. Transfers from one branch of the Foreign Service to another are not to be made except upon the successful passing of the prescribed examination. Thus the co-operation between the diplomatic and consular services should become closer.

II. Then there comes the promotion feature. The department's declared policy will not alone be to promote deserving men, as in the Hay-Root administration. A plan inaugurated by Mr. Huntington Wilson, Assistant Secretary of State, to whom much of the credit is due for recent developments of the merit system, has now the President's authority. First of all, secretaryships in the diplomatic service are to be classified according to their relative importance. Second, an efficiency record is to be kept of every officer in the service, so that there may be no promotion except upon well-established efficiency, and that there may be no retention except upon the maintenance of an average high standard of efficiency. Moreover, the Secretary of State is directed to report from time to time to the President the names of those who have shown special capacity. Third, the initial appointments to secretaryships are to be made only to the lowest grades—that is to say, to the third secretaryship of an embassy, second secretaryship of a legation, or secretaryship where the legation has but one secretary. Vacancies in the higher classes are henceforth to be filled solely by promotion.

With such rules for examinations and promotions our diplomatic service should henceforth have a character of professional excellence. For this reason we may count upon the entrance into it as into a permanent profession of many more serious and efficient young men than those who, largely because of the spoils system, once encumbered the service.

Our diplomatic service has always suffered from two drawbacks: It is not "paying;" it is not permanent. The Taft order will go a long way towards making it permanent.