
SENATOR THEODORE E. BURTON

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the limitation of armaments, the laws of war, an international prize court, and private international law. It carried on studies in the methods of mediation, good offices, commissions of inquiry, Court of Arbitration, and the organization of an international judiciary. Later it concentrated upon the policies adopted at the Second Hague Conference and upon a provisional program for a third. There has been a tendency in later years to extend the work of the Union over other questions pertaining to the development of peaceful relations between nations.

The Union has achieved results. It had a direct influence upon the constitution of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, provided for at the First Hague Conference in 1899. It was primarily responsible for the calling of the Second Hague Conference in 1907. Its model arbitration treaty received at the Second Hague Conference the votes of 32 out of the 44 States represented. Perhaps its greatest achievement has been the promotion of intelligent relations between governments by enabling the parliamentarians of the world to get acquainted with each other.

The work of the Interparliamentary Union is carried on by a Bureau with headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland. The Secretary-General is Dr. Christian L. Lange. There is a Council made up of two representatives of each of the parliaments, members of the Union. There is an Executive Committee, composed at present as follows: M. Fernand Bouisson, Speaker of the French Chamber of Deputies, President; Senator R. Dandurand, Canada; Dr. W. Schücking, Germany; Senator H. La Fontaine, Belgium; Dr. L. Moltesen, Denmark. Between conferences the work of the Union is carried on by six commissions, all with representatives from each of the parliaments, as follows: Political and Organization Ques-

tions; Juridical Questions; Economic and Financial Questions; Ethnic and Colonial Questions; the Reduction of Armaments; Social Questions.

Over fifty percent of the United States Senators and of the members of the House of Representatives are members of the American Group.

The officers of the American Group are as follows: President Theodore E. Burton; Vice-Presidents, Andrew J. Montague, Henry W. Temple; Treasurer, Adolph J. Sabath; Secretary, John J. McSwain; Executive Secretary, Arthur Deerin Call; Executive Committee, Theodore E. Burton, *ex officio Chairman*, Fred Britten, Tom Connally, Henry Allen Cooper, Clarence F. Lea, James C. McLaughlin, Alben W. Barkley, Charles Curtis, Joseph T. Robinson, and Claude A. Swanson.

The American Group of the Interparliamentary Union has its office at 613 Colorado Building, Washington, D. C.

In the light of these facts it would appear that Congressman Britten, sensible of the spirit and purposes of the Interparliamentary Union, is bent upon enlarging its prestige and influence. There can be no harm in that. The executive and diplomatic branches of the governments will naturally wish to encourage this important collaboration with their efforts to promote international understanding and goodwill.

SENATOR THEODORE E. BURTON

December 15, last, Theodore E. Burton moved over from the House of Representatives to take up once more his duties as an Ohio member of the United States Senate. The day before, surrounded by his fellow members of the House of Representatives, he bade them farewell in a valedictory which we are pleased to print

elsewhere in these columns. His entrance once more into the United States Senate was but another step in an already distinguished career, lasting through forty years of notable public service. Elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1888, Mr. Burton became an expert in many fields, especially finance, inland waters, and international relations. From 1909 to 1915 he was a member of the United States Senate, where his experience in the House enabled him to be of peculiar aid to our country at a time of great storm and stress. He returned to the House of Representatives in 1920, where again his great familiarity with matters of finance and international affairs proved to be of inestimable benefit. He has frankly said on various occasions that his desire to return to the Senate is primarily because of his interest in the problems of international peace. His membership in the Interparliamentary Union since the foundation of the American Group in 1904, his many trips abroad, his presidency of the American Group of the Interparliamentary Union, an office which he now holds, his presidency of the American Peace Society during the years 1911-1915 and of 1925-1928, all these will stand him well in hand as he tackles the new problems of the new day.

Senator Burton will find no one in the Senate superior to him intellectually. He is a scholar in many fields. He is the author of a text on Financial Crises, of a life of John Sherman, of "Corporations and the State," of "Political Tendencies of the Time," and of many papers on a wide variety of themes. He is powerful and judicial in debate. His integrity is admired by all. Whether or not we call him a statesman of the old school, we must accept him as a statesman of the best school.

From a rather intimate relationship,

lasting through many treasured years, the ADVOCATE OF PEACE wishes the best of New Years, and all the joys commensurate with his life of great fruitfulness, to Senator Theodore E. Burton, of Ohio.

INJURY OF PROPERTY SEIZED IN TIME OF WAR

THE ways of justice are sometimes far from simple. This fact stands out in a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States handed down under date of November 5, 1928.

It appears that a woman, citizen of the United States, married a German citizen. By that act she became a German subject. During the war she was the owner of a certain house in Washington. It was determined in 1918 that she was an alien enemy. Our Government seized the premises and occupied them for office purposes for considerably over two years. At the end of that time the custodian returned the property to the woman. During the occupation of the premises our Government made a number of alterations in the house. When the property was returned our Government paid the lady one hundred dollars a month for nine months—nine hundred dollars altogether.

The lady brought action in the court, asking that it should ascertain and fix the amount due her for the use of the building and fix the damages sustained by the property. Since this was in fact an action against the United States, the real defendant in the premises, and since the United States cannot be sued except with its own consent, and since in this case the United States had not given its consent thus to be sued, and since the plaintiff became by her marriage a citizen of another country, and since only a "person not an enemy or ally of an enemy . . . may institute a suit in equity . . . to establish the interest, right, or title to a claim," and since this particular action