CORRESPONDENCE.

CIRCULARS.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

To certain diplomatic officers abroad.

Sir: There is now assembled in Washington, in response to the invitation of the President, a conference of representatives of the United States of Mexico and of the Dominion of Canada to meet the representatives of the United States of America for the purpose of considering the common interests of the three countries in the conservation of their natural resources. The cordiality with which the neighboring Governments accepted the invitation is no less an augury of the success of this important movement than is the disposition already shown by the conference to recognize the magnitude of the question before them. While recognizing the imperative necessity for the development and use of the great resources upon which the civilization and prosperity of nations must depend, the American Governments realize the vital need of arresting the inroads improvidently or unnecessarily made upon their natural wealth. They comprehend also that as to many of their national resources more than a merely conservative treatment is required; that reparatory agencies should be invoked to aid the processes of beneficent nature, and that the means of restoration and increase should be sought whenever practicable. They see that to the task of devising economical expenditure of resources, which, once gone, are lost forever, there should be superposed the duty of restoring and maintaining productiveness wherever impaired or menaced by wastefulness. In the northern part of the American hemisphere destruction and waste bring other evils in their train. The removal of forests, for instance, results in the aridity of vast tracts, torrential rainfalls break down and carry away the unprotected soil, and regions once abundant in vegetable and animal life become barren. This is a lesson almost as old as the human race. The older countries of Europe, Africa, and the Orient teach a lesson in this regard which has been too little heeded.

Anticipating the wide interest which would naturally be aroused in other countries by the present North American Conference, the President foresaw the probability that it would be the precursor of a world congress. By an aide-mémoire of the 6th of January last the principal Governments were informally sounded to ascertain whether they would look with favor upon an invitation to send delegates to such a conference. The responses have so far been uni-
formally favorable, and the Conference of Washington has suggested to the President that a similar general conference be called by him. The President feels, therefore, that it is timely to initiate the suggested world conference for the conservation of national resources by a formal invitation.

By direction of the President, and with the concurrence of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, an invitation is extended to the Government of ——— to send delegates to a conference to be held at The Hague at such date as may be found convenient, there to meet and consult the like delegates of the other countries, with a view to considering a general plan for an inventory of the natural resources of the world and to devising a uniform scheme for the expression of the results of such inventory to the end that there may be a general understanding and appreciation of the world’s supply of the material elements which underlie the development of civilization and the welfare of the peoples of the earth. It would be appropriate also for the conference to consider the general phases of the correlated problem of checking and, when possible, repairing the injuries caused by the waste and destruction of natural resources and utilities and make recommendations in the interest of their conservation, development, and replenishment.

With such a world inventory and such recommendations the various producing countries of the whole world would be in a better position to cooperate, each for its own good and all for the good of all, toward the safeguarding and betterment of their common means of support. As was said in the preliminary aide-mémoire of January 6:

The people of the whole world are interested in the natural resources of the whole world, benefited by their conservation, and injured by their destruction. The people of every country are interested in the supply of food and of material for manufacture in every other country, not only because these are interchangeable through processes of trade, but because a knowledge of the total supply is necessary to the intelligent treatment of each nation’s share of the supply.

Nor is this all. A knowledge of the continuance and stability of perennial and renewable resources is no less important to the world than a knowledge of the quantity or the term remaining for the enjoyment of those resources which when consumed are irreplaceable. As to all the great natural sources of national welfare, the peoples of to-day hold the earth in trust for the peoples to come after them. Reading the lessons of the past aright, it would be for such a conference to look beyond the present to the future.

You will communicate the foregoing to the Government of ——— with the expression of the President’s hope that we may be soon informed of its acceptance of the invitation. You will at the same time inform His Excellency that upon informal inquiry a gratifying assurance of the sympathy of the Government of the Netherlands has been received.

I am, etc.,

Alvey A. Adee,
Acting Secretary of State.
WORLD'S CONSERVATION CONGRESS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 21, 1909.

To the diplomatic officers of the United States.

GENTLEMEN: I inclose herewith for your information, in case the Government to which you are accredited should mention the matter to you, a copy of an aide-mémoire handed to the chargé des affaires of the Netherlands legation at Washington explaining the intended scope of the department's instruction of February 19 last concerning the proposed world's congress for the conservation of natural resources.

I am, etc.,

P. C. KNOX.

[Inclosure.]

Aide-mémoire.

On the 12th instant Mr. Rooyen, the chargé des affaires of the Netherlands legation, called at the Department of State to inquire on behalf of his Government whether it was convenient for the department to give information as to the disposition of the various Governments to participate in the contemplated International Congress for the Conservation of Natural Resources. The remarks of the chargé des affaires also conveyed the impression that his Government had been placed under the misapprehension that the Government of the United States might fail to call upon the Netherlands Government to issue the final invitation to foreign Governments to the congress, which it is proposed to hold at The Hague.

The Department of State welcomes the opportunity to dispel so unfortunate an impression. The instructions sent to the diplomatic representatives of the United States were intended merely to cause them to make preliminary inquiry as to the disposition of the various Governments to join in a congress of the kind contemplated. In this way it was sought to determine the question whether there was sufficient international interest to justify going forward with the project, in order that if this first condition were established a date might be fixed whereupon the Government of the Netherlands would naturally be asked to issue an invitation—a step obviously impossible at the time when the holding of the congress is problematical and the date is not fixed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 15, 1909.

REGISTRATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

To the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States.

GENTLEMEN: Referring to the circular instruction of April 19, 1907, in regard to the registration of American citizens, you are hereby instructed to insert in both the register and the certificate of registration the local address of the person registering and the name and address of the nearest relative in America with whom it would be necessary to communicate in the event of any serious accident to or death of the person registered.

I am, etc.,

HUNTINGTON WILSON,
Acting Secretary.
FOURTH PAN-AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

To the diplomatic officers of the United States in countries of the
Western Hemisphere.

GENTLEMEN: The Director of the Bureau of the American Republics, speaking also for the governing board of the bureau, has expressed to the Department of State the opinion that it would be helpful to the adequate representation of the several American Republics at the Fourth International Sanitary Convention, to be held at San Jose, Costa Rica, from December 25, 1909, to January 2, 1910, if the representatives of the United States at the capitals of these Republics should discuss with the ministers for foreign affairs and with local sanitary officers the importance of the gathering in question.

Duplicate copies, in English and Spanish, of a pamphlet setting forth the convocation of the Fourth International Sanitary Convention, and documents relating thereto, are inclosed herewith.

Inasmuch as the convention is to be held at the city of San Jose, the Costa Rican Government has undoubtedly taken all appropriate steps to encourage the attendance of representatives of the Governments concerned. These Governments have doubtless received full information on the subject through the Bureau of the American Republics, their representatives at Washington, and from the chairman of the International Sanitary Bureau here. Nevertheless, you may take a convenient opportunity to discuss the matter in the manner suggested by the Director of the Bureau of American Republics, since the project is one which this Government regards as of interest and importance to all American Republics.

I am, etc.,

P. C. KNOX.

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM CONFERENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 1, 1909.

To the diplomatic officers of the United States accredited to the Govern-ments which were represented in the Shanghai International Opium Commission.¹

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 1, 1909.

To the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States.

GENTLEMEN: The diplomatic officers of the United States are instructed to obtain information and forward reports upon the following points. These reports should be forwarded with the least possible delay in order that the American Red Cross, which requests

¹For text see p. 107.
the information, may have it available in case legislation affecting
their organization comes up at the impending session of Congress.

First. Which of the signatory powers already had in 1906 legisla-
tion adequate for the protection of the sign of the Red Cross and
in what that legislation consists; the verbiage of the statutes to be
supplied.

Second. What, if any, measures have since been taken by those
countries whose legislation was not adequate to protect the emblem
of the Red Cross at the time of the signing of the convention, and in
what the legislation consists.

At the International Red Cross Convention at Geneva, on July 6,
1906, certain measures were taken which looked to the repression of
the abuse of the sign of the Red Cross. The Governments that took
part in this conference were the following: Argentine Republic, Aus-
tria-Hungary, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Denmark,
France, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Greece, Guatemala,
Honduras, Italy, Japan, Kongo Free State, Korea, Luxemburg,
Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Persia,
Peru, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Switzerland, Servia, Siam, Spain,
Sweden, the United States of America, and Uruguay.

The articles of the treaty above referred to, signed at Geneva, that
relate to the distinctive emblem of the Red Cross are as follows
(chap. 6, art. 18):

   CHAPTER VI.—Distinctive emblem.

Art. 18. Out of respect to Switzerland the heraldic emblem of the red cross
on a white ground, formed by the reversal of the Federal colors, is continued as
the emblem and distinctive sign of the sanitary service of armies.

Art. 19. This emblem appears on flags and brassards as well as upon all
matériel appertaining to the sanitary service, with the permission of the com-
potent military authority.

Art. 20. The personnel protected in virtue of the first paragraph of article 9,
and articles 10 and 11, will wear attached to the left arm a brassard bearing
a red cross on a white ground, which will be issued and stamped by competent
military authority, and accompanied by a certificate of identity in the case of
persons attached to the sanitary service of armies who do not have military
uniform.

Art. 21. The distinctive flag of the convention can only be displayed over the
sanitary formations and establishments which the convention provides shall
be respected, and with the consent of the military authorities. It shall be ac-
compained by the national flag of the belligerent to whose service the forma-
ton or establishment is attached.

Sanitary formations which have fallen into the power of the enemy, how-
ever, shall fly no other flag than that of the Red Cross so long as they continue
in that situation.

Art. 22. The sanitary formations of neutral countries which, under the con-
ditions set forth in article 11, have been authorized to render their services,
shall fly, with the flag of the convention, the national flag of the belligerent to
which they are attached. The provisions of the second paragraph of the pre-
ceding article are applicable to them.

Art. 23. The emblem of the red cross on a white ground and the words
Red Cross or Geneva Cross may only be used, whether in time of peace or war,
to protect or designate sanitary formations and establishments, the personnel
and matériel protected by the convention.
With respect to the repression of the abuse and infractions of the use of this emblem the following articles were adopted (chapter 8, Repression of abuses and infractions):

CHAPTER VIII.—Repression of abuses and infractions.

Art. 27. The signatory powers whose legislation may not now be adequate to engage to take or recommend to their legislatures such measures as may be necessary to prevent the use, by private persons or by societies other than those upon which this convention confers the right thereto, of the emblem or name of the Red Cross or Geneva Cross, particularly for commercial purposes by means of trade-marks or commercial labels.

The prohibition of the use of the emblem or name in question shall take effect from the time set in each act of legislation, and at the latest five years after this convention goes into effect. After such going into effect it shall be unlawful to use a trade-mark or commercial label contrary to such prohibition.

Art. 28. In the event of their military penal laws being insufficient, the signatory Governments also engage to take, or to recommend to their legislatures, the necessary measures to repress, in time of war, individual acts of robbery and illtreatment of the sick and wounded of the armies, as well as to punish, as usurpations of military insignia, the wrongful use of the flag and braid of the Red Cross by military persons or private individuals not protected by the present convention.

They will communicate to each other through the Swiss Federal Council the measures taken with a view to such repression not later than five years from the ratification of the present convention.

It is understood that the plenipotentiaries of all the powers signed the treaty in question and that it has been ratified and confirmed by the respective Governments.

The reports made in pursuance of this suggestion should convey information respecting the use that is now being made in various countries of the Red Cross as a trade-mark in advertising the sale of goods and commodities. There will thus be supplied information essential to legislation for the proper protection of the Red Cross emblem in the United States.

I am, furthermore, requested to inform you that the American Red Cross is desirous of securing as active members of the national and official association of this country our diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, so that in case of need they can act as representatives of the American Red Cross. As active members they will be enabled to obtain information as to the standing and efficiency of the Red Cross societies in the countries to which they are accredited, such information being of great importance in the matter of the administration of relief funds forwarded by the American Red Cross. Moreover, the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States will comprehend the opportunity of strengthening the friendly relationship between this country and others by thus providing at times of disaster an avenue through which our people may express their sympathy in a practical and tangible form.

The American National Red Cross, by the act of Congress, January 5, 1905, is charged with the duty of—

Fifth. And to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

Since that date it has rendered assistance in money contributions and in supplies after calamities in foreign countries from famine, floods, fires, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes in Japan, China,
Russia, Jamaica, Chili, Canada, Italy, Turkey, and Mexico. The contributions for such relief work have amounted to considerably over a million and a half dollars and have consisted entirely of voluntary donations. In case of such foreign relief the American Red Cross has relied largely upon the information received from, and the assistance rendered by, the diplomatic representatives of the United States in the respective countries wherein the assistance is rendered.

As showing the high patronage and the scope of the American Red Cross, which has been chartered and sanctioned by act of Congress, I quote a letter which the President of the United States has addressed, as president of the American Red Cross, to the governors of the States of the Union:

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your knowledge the facilities of the American Red Cross for conducting large measures of emergency relief or assisting in the conduct in any part of the United States.

Its national director, Mr. Ernest P. Bicknell, who devotes his entire time to the executive duties of the Red Cross, has had an extended experience in the organization and direction of work of this character. Mr. Bicknell is prepared to proceed instantly to the scene of any great disaster and confer with the State or local authorities, as well as the local representative of the Red Cross, in regard to the efficient organization of relief. This service is wholly free and is quite apart from any question of the source of the relief funds.

The Red Cross is a national organization, the only one chartered by the United States and maintained for the sole purpose of relieving the sufferings caused by war or by calamities in time of peace. In the United States, fortunately, the Red Cross has been almost entirely free from the demands of war, but has found an important and growing field in the relief and rehabilitation of communities devastated by fire, flood, storm, or other disaster of an extent or magnitude exceeding local relief resources. It operates under a special charter from Congress and is governed by a central committee appointed in part by the President of the United States from the Departments of State, War, Navy, Treasury, and Justice, and is required to submit an annual report to Congress. In the event of war the Red Cross is the only organization whose agents in the military encampments and upon battlefields will be officially recognized and authorized to maintain hospitals, hospital ships, etc.

Should any calamity occur within the bounds of your State which requires large and unusual relief measures, you are invited to make the freest use of the services of the Red Cross or of its national director in either an executive or advisory capacity.

Since the reorganization of the Red Cross in 1905, the amounts enumerated on the attached sheet have been raised and expended at the places or for the objects stated.

Respectfully,

Wm. H. Taft.

(The following is inclosed with the above:)

"Relief expenditures, American Red Cross, from January 1, 1906, to April 30, 1909:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippine typhoon</td>
<td>$1,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese famine</td>
<td>245,868.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vesuvian eruption</td>
<td>16,220.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California earthquake</td>
<td>2,968,200.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valparaiso earthquake</td>
<td>3,844.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese famine</td>
<td>327,897.50</td>
</tr>
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<td>Kingston earthquake</td>
<td>5,581.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian famine</td>
<td>9,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi cyclone</td>
<td>2,767.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina and Georgia floods</td>
<td>942.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian forest fires</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monongah mine disaster</td>
<td>3,762.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian earthquake</td>
<td>986,378.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey-Armenian relief</td>
<td>20,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mexican flood relief.......................... $7,700.00
Miscellaneous.................................. 75.00

Total........................................... 4,609,991.27
Christmas stamps, 1908, tuberculosis........ 183,000.00

"The total expenditure for all administration and executive work during
same period was $30,195.15.
"Expenses, two-thirds of 1 per cent of expenditures; more than half of
which has been paid from members' dues and from the income of the endow-
ment fund of $115,000."

In the past the Department of State has been frequently called
upon by individuals or organizations to forward through the foreign
service sums for the relief of suffering in foreign countries. To avoid
complications and to avail of a centralized, appropriate, and highly
efficient channel for such contributions, the department has lately
encouraged the making of all such contributions to the Red Cross
itself. In such cases, from time to time, the department is asked by
the Red Cross to forward sums thus coming to them or contributions
from the society's own funds to the scene of suffering, and this has
been done through the foreign service. It would obviously be appro-
priate if members of the foreign service who might be called upon
to handle such funds were in position to do so as members of their
national organization. As such, the foreign service might also be
better able to point out occasions when Red Cross relief from this
country would be really appropriate, and, what is quite equally im-
portant, to advise against inopportune or exaggerated contribution.

From the foregoing, and in view also of the fact that the inter-
national activities of the American Red Cross can not but be a factor
in international relations and good feeling, it is needless to say that
the desire of the American Red Cross that the members of the diplo-
matic and consular service should join it has the good will of the
Department of State.

I am, etc.,

P. C. Knox.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

To the Diplomatic Officers of the United States.

GENTLEMEN: In pursuance of a joint resolution of the Congress
of the United States, approved March 3, 1905, the President of the
United States addressed to the president of the International Prison
Congress an invitation to hold the eighth session of the congress in
the United States at such time and place as might be determined by
the International Prison Commission.

The invitation was duly accepted and the congress will meet at
Washington, October 2-8, 1910.

The Government of the United States would be pleased to have
the Government to which you are accredited represented in the
forthcoming congress by delegates, and you are instructed to extend
to that Government an official invitation from the Government of
the United States to participate therein.
In conveying the invitation you will accompany it with a copy of the inclosed Senate Document No. 462, Sixtieth Congress, first session, in which are set forth the origin, history, scope, and object of the International Prison Congress and the program of the questions to be discussed at the meeting of the congress at Washington in 1910.

It is represented to the department by the commissioner of the United States on the International Prison Commission that it is important that the International Prison Commission at Berne should be advised not later than February next of the names of the delegates who will attend the Washington congress. You will therefore request prompt consideration of the invitation.

I am, etc.,

P. C. Knox.