American Foreign

House before he made it clear that the position of the United States abroad was to be a matter of the first consideration with him, says the New York correspondent of the London Times. No one was more emphatic on this point than his predecessor, Mr. Roosevelt; but Mr. Roosevelt was largely occupied in the preliminary work of educating public opinion and making the American people realize that they could not continue to dwell in splendid isolation from the rest of the world. It remained for Mr. Taft to lead the march along the road thus prepared, and he is setting a most energetic

Mr. Taft and the Far East

Unlike other presidents, Mr. Taft came into office with a personal knowledge of foreign peoples and affairs. He had lived in the Philippines for three years as Governor of the islands; he had charge of the Panama canal for four years and visited the isthmus more than once; he had been to Cuba to create order out of disorder-in the insurrection of 1906; he had been sent to Rome to negotiate with Pope Leo XIII the purchase of agricultural lands belonging to religious orders in the Philippines; and he had, a year before his election, paid a visit to Japan and China and returned home by way of Siberia and Europe. He was known as "the travelling member" the Roosevelt cabinet, and he certainly earned the title. Success attended all his missions; troubles seemed to vanish before his genial smile and whole-hearted, friendly manner. He was giving much all the time but he gained more-a valuable insight into Weltpolitik which was an unknown word to Americans until very recently. Thus equipped he entered the White House.

Mr. Taft's methods are not spectacular. Hence there was no declaration of foreign policy, no pronunciamento that the administration intended to blaze a path for commerce in the Far East or South America. The first intimation that China was constantly in Mr. Taft's mind came indirectly through the Washington correspondents, who told us of the importance which the President attached to the Pekin legation and his painstaking search for a man of business to succeed Mr. Rockhill. Mr. Rockhill had distinguished himself at Pekin as a diplomatist, and his transference to St. Petersburg caused some surprise until it was learned what Mr. Taft's aims were. Almost simultaneously with the appointment of Mr. Crane, the head of a great manufacturing concern in Chicago, came the American demand for a share in the Szechuan Railway loan with all its long sequel of negotiations. The American press quickly realized that here was an international affair involving national rights. There was a manful endeavor to acquaint the American public with all the niceties of diplomacy and intricacies of railway concessions in the Celestial Empire. "The American dollar with the American man behind it and the American Government behind both" became the slogan of the new campaign. The Administration was convinced of the great political and commercial future of that country, seized the moment for action, and wisely made the bankers of Wall Street play the game which was at once in its own and their own

In the attempt to show forth the United States as the sole sincere friend of China it was easy to confuse all the other Powers concerned and throw suspicion on all their motives. That was certainly not the Administration's idea. The Administration entered the field with perfectly clean hands and in the enjoyment of a full measure of Chinese confidence on account of its repayment of a good part of the Boxer indemnity. It was and is, therefore, in an exceptionally strong position, and naturally it is utilizing and will utilize its advantages to the full. Your Special Correspondent who lately visited the Far East has shown why Great Britain has every reason to be glad of American intervention in Chinese affairs, and it is safe to say that this Government relies on British co-operation in a policy whose aim is to help China to develop her resources in a way beneficial alike to herself and her helpers.

Mr. Crane on China

No sooner was Mr. Crane appointed to the United States legation in Pekin than he began to outline the Administration's reasons for energetic action in the Middle Kingdom. Speaking to the American Asiatic Association at a farewell dinner given to him here some weeks ago he quoted Mr. Taft's speech at Shanghai in 1907 to the effect that the United States does not covet China's territory nor grudge her prosperity nor resent her independence and power and he added in a passage which deserves to be quoted in full: -

"With our Western country filling up with a fine, strong body of men, with our extensive shore-line on the Pacific, and our powers of production calling for outside markets, we are singularly fortunate at this moment to have at the head of our Government one who understands so well the conditions existing around the Pacific, one who has so profound a sympathy for the people, struggling up toward the light, and one in whom these people have so

much confidence. "We believe that although China has great problems to solve, such as the administrative problem, the opium problem, the currency problem, and the revenue problem, she is perfectly capable of solving them alone if she can be kept free from menace, and we also believe that if she increases in prosperity she will make a better market than if she de-

Mr. Taft had not been long in the White teriorates. Of course, in this development she will require much foreign material, and in a perfectly legitimate and friendly way Secretary Knox has determined that we shall have our share. When I was in China, some thirty years ago the foreign business was largely in the hands of some fine old American houses. They have not prospered much in recent years, but with the net outlook and the new interest we have there, I hope to see them get back to the former dominating position.

"There is no mystery or secrecy about my mission to the East. I go there under the simplest form of instructions from the President and from the Secretary of State to carry out the spirit of the Shanghai speech, and with a profound respect for and great confidence in the Chinese people, a great desire to serve well the people who send me so far, and pride in the spirit of the programme to be carried out. Whatever is for the prosperity and benefit of

the Chinese is the best thing for us." In all this there is nothing at variance with British policy. Experience may be relied upon to correct the view that China can solve her tremendous problems without outside aid, Observers have already pointed out here that the Imperial Customs Service is the only department of the Chinese Government which can claim efficiency, and that that efficiency is due to Sir Robert Hart and his able fellowworkers. Of course, British merchants in China must prepare to meet another competitor, but they cannot resent fair competition and, indeed, may appreciate it in contrast to

Central and South America So much for China. There remain Central and South America, apart from certain other minor fields, in which American enterprise is also visible. In regard to the American Republics Mr. Taft and Mr. Knox, his Secretary of State, are carrying on the work of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Root. It is but natural that the United States should seek to the southward a firm commercial position, if only to strengthen the political claim embodied in the Monroe doctrine. The danger of a European challenge of that doctrine is ever present so long as the chief creditors of the Central and South American Republics are European. The process of transferring the major portions of the obligations of the Central American Republics has been hastened since Mr. Taft assumed office. Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica have effected or are effecting arrangements by which their debts will be written mainly in the ledgers of Wall Street. There can be no resentment at such developments; the hondholders of the Republics have had too much experience to object to an escape without inconvenience or loss.

In the South American field, however, conditions are different, the problem of financial dominance far greater and more complex. During the last six months we have learned of the plan for the establishment of a chain of American banks embracing not only Central but South America; information has also been forthcoming of the determined entry of Chicago interests into the meat trade of Argentina. The apparent alliance of one of the strongest financial institutions of New York with the Beef Trust has been mentioned in The Times, allies were preparing to dominate the chief industry of Argentina. In the Argentine the first struggle between strongly intrenched European interests and the unhesitating enterprise of American newcomers is likely to take place. But the struggle is bound to extend throughout the whole southern half of the continent. Undoubtedly Americans have at last awakened to the potentialities of trade and commerce in South America. The revival of the agitation for a ship subsidy has accompanied the sudden recognition of the fact that the United States is speedily reaching the stage at which it will consume all its foodstuffs and may some day have to import them. The Beef Trust's search for new sources of supply led its emissaries southward, and they have come back bringing report of a land of milk and honey. They have now enlisted the interest of New York capitalists. Here, probably is the beginning of a great movement whose end can only be the domination, financially and commercially, of South America by the United States an end as yet far off, although it is to be said that Americans move quickly.

The Purpose of Expansion Looked at from a broad standpoint, what the meaning of this determined invasion foreign fields of commerce and diplomacy? In the first place it must be remembered that this country becomes year by year a large producer of manufactured articles. Foodstuffs 1899 formed 45 per cent of the value of American exports; this year they constitute 27 per cent. As has been pointed out before, the present tendency is for the American people to consume all the foodstuffs they produce, to occupy themselves more and more with manufactures, to live in towns and not on farms. In course of time the surplus of manufactured products will more and more exceed that of natural products; to keep mills and factories working will require an ever greater number of foreign buyers. Again, while there is still room enough for the investment of a vast amount of capital within the borders of the United States, there are regions on the earth which need it more and which, being as yet practically untapped, promise even greater profits. The virgin soil of this country fast disappearing, the land is being filled p. Elsewhere in South America, Australia, Canada, the stage of development is far behind

the one here attained and consequently there are richer veins to be tapped. Hence, probably, the seemingly inconsistent facts that, while the United States Steel Corporation and the Pennsylvania and other American railways are bidding for foreign investors, here in New York capitalists are seeking to place their money in Argentina or China. Finally, to turn to the political side of the question, why the Administration urging manufacturers seek customers abroad? The question to seek customers abroad? partly answered by the fact, above alluded to, of the speedly development of American manufactures. For the future welfare of the country the Administration prompts. Street. But, beyond this, it knows that with commerce goes influence, and, having once and for all abandoned that attitude of aloofness which used to be a cardinal principle of American foreign policy, the Washington Government is bent on playing a prominent part in the world's affairs. National pride and national interests demand it.

RARE OLD SPOONS

Famous American Collection

Little is known about the few worldly pos sessions which the Pilgrim Fathers took with them in the Mayflower, but it has been suggested that the American craze for old silver was begun by a few Apostle spoons being claimed as part of the belongings of the sturdy Independents who left their native Boston in Collectors know to their cost the force of American competition in the market, and, in the past decade more remarkable advances in the value of old silver have been witnessed than even in the value of pictures. Hitherto, American buyers have purchased for "keeps but, as in the cases of the Van Antwerp books and the Benson Greek coins, an American collection of old silver has been released, having been bought by an English firm-Messrs. Crichton Brothers-well known in the arena

This collection was formed by Mr. E. H Gay, of Boston, Mass., and, at the outset, it s interesting to note that it appropriately contains a relic of the Lincolnshire Boston, in the shape of an Elizabethan standing salt, which until 1837, formed part of the Corporation plate, when it was sold, with a pair of 1582 tazze, to one Thomas Hopkins. Over three years ago these beautiful pieces appeared at Christie's, and, as duly recorded in these columns at the time, the tazze realized £2,900, and the noble bell-shaped 1600 standing salt £1,520, These sums caused a stir on the other side, and in some quarters it was openly regretted that the Pilgrim Fathers had not emulated the deed of spoiling the Egyptians when leaving these shoreston

Although owning many large and import ant pieces of silver decoration, Mr. Gay found his real flair in the quest after old spoons. Despite the constant references in ancient chronicles to silver spoons, it remains one of the puzzles of history to know what became of the silver spoons fashioned before the fifteenth century. Abbot Wulketul gave back to Croyland twelve spoons of silver in 1085. Roger, Archbishop of York, mentions forty left among his plate. "Yet in the detailed inventory of Sir John Fastolfe, who had an enormous collection of silver plate in the first half of the fifteenth century, there are only sixteen spoons with the tops "gylt like perle, together with thirteen presumably Apostle spoons. The fact remains that no silver spoons are discoverable older than about 1470, and it is the best explanation to conjecture that those made earlier went back into the melting pot either for money or for the silversmith's use. Shakespeare on Spoons

The custom, begun in the fifteenth century, of sponsors at christenings giving Apostle spoons to their godchildren accounts for the spoons to their gotchildren accounts for the survival of many of these presents. Such spoons had at the end of the handle the gilt figure of one of the Twelve Apostles. The rich would bestow a complete set on some happy child and even to be born with one "silver spoon in its mouth" was a good augury for another. Shakespeare comments on the custom in "Henry VIII," when the King asks Cranmer to stand godfather to "a fair young maid." Cranmer answers, "How may I deserve such honour that am a poor and humble subject?" Whereupon the King, affecting to suspect Crammer of having a frugal mind, rejoins, "Come, come, my lord, you'll spare your spoons!" Many Apostle spoons from the time

of Henry VIII. to Charles II. are in the Gay collection, but there is no complete set (with the Master spoon) of the same year, and of the same manufacture as that series of thirteen, dated 1536, sold for £4,900 at Christie's on July 16, 1903, or again of that 1626 set presented to the Goldsmith's company by the late Mr. George Lambert.

with a "diamond" on top, and that other fifteenth-century rarity a writhen-top spoon. There is also a lion sejant of Elizabeth's time, together with slipped-stalk specimens from Henry VIII. to Charles II. In the seul-top section, covering the same period, there is the exceptionally rare example bearing the date mark 1544, with the lion passant mark, this being the year when this standard mark was first used. Many rare Puritan spoons include

"hoof-end" types, rare even for the Common-

Yet the collection may boast a 1490 spoon,

wealth and the later types completely represent those which followed down to the end

of Anne's reign. Besides the Boston cup already mentioned, there are numerous large sideboard pieces. Such are a 1688 gilt cup and cover engraved with the Royal arms and cipher, having be-longed to William III. and Mary, and afterwards to Anne; and the wine cup of Charles I.; a large Monteith bowl of Queen Anne; and the Stuart pieces include, a massive vocates of unnecessary pampering, but at the

Dogs for Sport and Pastime

as popular in England as today, and the general standard of merit is undoubtedly a very high one, although perhaps individual specimens may not be found equal to some exhibited by Mrs. Horsfall when her kennel was at its strongest. The fact that close on a hundred were submitted to the scrutiny of Mr. Horowitz at the recent show of the Yorkshire Specialist Club is sufficiently remarkable to call for attention. It must have been a sight worth seeing, for no finer or more imposing dogs can be brought together. Although they have been known in this country for well over a hundred years-Dalziel even considers that the Saxons brought them over to hunt the wild boar-their popularity among the show men is a matter of comparatively recent growth. Possibly this may be attributable to the fact that a few bad-tempered ones made people a little nervous about housing enormous creatures that would be distinctly dangerous if they were not amiable. As a matter of fact, the modern dog, unless his disposition has been ruined by confinement or bad usage, is very gentle and easily controlled. It is not an unusual thing to see a lady in a London suburb exercising half a dozen or more at the same time, all under perfect control. Their great intelligence and devotion to master or mistress make them ideal companions, supposing one has sufficient accommodation. Writing as long ago as the early part of the nineteenth century Sydenham Edwards said of the dog: "Not noisy, but of approved dignity becoming his intrepid character, he keeps his state in silence." A very apt description even now. The stories which we hear of Danes standing 36 inches high at the shoulder must be received with a good deal of incredulity. Probably the measurement would not admit of verification, although dogs have been known inches less. In the standard the minimum height for a dog is put at 30 inches, and for a bitch at 28 inches. Size, however, is useless unless accompanied by symmetry, for the Dane is nothing if not built on graceful as well as powerful lines. It is this that constitutes a large part of his beauty. His general contour is most pleasing. Mrs. Horsfall's famous Champion Hannibal of Redgrave was not a big dog, but his proportions were perfect, which enabled him to score over all rivals.

The club standard in describing the general appearance says he should be an upstanding, etermined animal, with symmetrical outline of body, muscular quarters, head carried high on a long, clean neck, standing strong and firm on all four legs, with a proud, alert expression. The action must be free, with long, swinging strides, indicating great galloping In markings we may have brindles, blacks, fawns, blues and harlequins, the black patches on the latter showing clearly on a pure white ground. In Germany the harlequin is frequently referred to as the "tiger" dog, a horse of that color being so named. Much stress is laid upon purity of color in Germany, and this is a point none too easily obtained If brindles are continually mated together, for instance, the characteristic markings become less and less distinct, and the union of the two harlequins produces too much white. This is a subject which should appeal to poultry and pigeon breeders, who have given to it much thought and consideration. One would imagine, however, in the case the Great Dane, markings should play but a secondary part, the main thing being shape and movement. In toys, bred solely to please the eye, such as Pomeranians, one can under-stand that this should be an important feature, perhaps one of the most important, allied with beauty of coat for it is their duty to

please the eye in this way. Pomeranian owners have shown us what can be done in the way of producing artistic shades. The first Spitz dogs that came to this country were mainly white, and considerably larger than we have today. Careful selection has dwarfed the size and given us blacks, sables, shaded sables, blues, beavers, black-and-tans, orange, browns, black-and-whites and tri-colors. The shaded sable, which became the rage on the appearance of Champion Sable Mite, was the result of a union between a black dog and a brown bitch. Orange is one of the most difficult colors to get in perfection, but is much esteemed in consequence. In general appearance the Pomeranian should be a compact, short-coupled dog, well knit in frame. His head and face should be fox-like, with small erect ears that appear sensible to every sound; he should exhibit great intelligence in his expression, docility in his disposition, and activity and buoyancy in his deportment. The tail should be turned well over the back and carried flat, being profusely covered with long, spreading The outer coat should be long, perfectly straight, and glistening, covering the whole of the body, and in especial abundance round the neck, where it forms a frill of profuse, standing-off, straight hair, extending over the shoulders. The hind quarters should also be well clad with long hair or feathering from the top of the rump to the hocks. Any white on a self-colored dog is very objectionable, and is decidedly detrimental in the show ring. Shaded sables must be shaded throughout with three or more colors, as uniformly as possible, with no patches of self-color.

Dogs need more than ordinary attention during the winter months, for it is then that ailments are most rife, and chills and other maladies are common. The kennel accommo dation should be reasonably warm, perfectly dry, and free from draughts. We are no ad-Charles II. salver with "cut card" decoration. same time there is a reasonable means which

Never probably has the Great Dane been should be observed by all owners in the treatment of their four-footed companions. The toy varieties will, of course, be housed indoors, and others, such as terriers, may also have a box in the house. This is not always possible in the case of big dogs, but it is most desirable that they should either be quartered in a stable or outhouse, if a proper lean-to kennel has not been built for them. A very habitable little place can be put up in a sheltered position against a wall for quite a small sum Good stout deal is cheap enough, and it is all the better if it is lined with thick cowhair felt and then match-boarded on the inside. The roof can be covered with the ordinary tarred felt. The entrance should face the most protected situation, in order that the inmate may be sheltered from draughts. The ideal accommodation consists of a kennel within kennel, in which the dog can curl up snug and warm. The whole, however should be easily accessible, so that cleanliness may be duly observed. A thorough washing with some disinfectant is certainly desirable each week. you do not mind a little extra expense, admirable kennels may be had from Spratt's Patent for a most reasonable sum. It is only natural that many people like to give their dogs the run of the house during the day, but a little reflection will show that the transition from the warm temperature of a living room to an outdoor kennel can scarcely be beneficial. Something may be done by making the dog lie as far away from the fire as possible. I the dog gets wet, he should be well dried before being shut up for the night. Neglect of this precaution leads to many troubles, and is doubtless the reason why jaundice is so common among hounds and gun dogs. We prefer to give the principal meal at night, as the dog will then be able to digest it comfortably. While this process, which is a slow one in the canine stomach, is going on he should be resting. Distemper is at its worst in the damp, muggy months that are to come, the virus seeming to thrive and flourish in the lowered vitality occasioned by bad weather. Bright, frosty days are not nearly so trying a young dog, which is not through the dread disease, begins to sicken, looking twice at his food, and showing signs of feverishness, he should at once be put in a warm place and coated.-London Daily Times.

EGYPTIAN VOICES FROM 6,000 B.C.

At King's College, London, thanks to re-cent explorations in Egypt, visitors may see some of the results of digging in a pre-dynastic cemetery, eight miles to the north of Abydos A brief inspection of these articles some of which must have been in existence circa 6,000 B.C., conjures up a vision of an ancient civilization, with its arts, its fashions, and its superstitions. Most of the articles are stone pots, or potsherds, but there are many carvings in wood and ivory. The wood is in some cases honeycombed by the ravages of white ante Many of the articles are said to be either of the pre-dynastic period, or of the first dynasty. From a child's "burial" there has been recov ered a slate palette for grinding eye-paint, which is on exhibition. Other objects on view that have been taken from the "burials" of various adults include ivory hairpins found in the hair, a vase decorated with a painting of two hippopotami, a heap of imitation found at the head of a dog buried with an adult, a clay gaming-board, with men resembling draught-men, found at the end of a grave, and an ostrich egg, from a woman's grave. Among the objects of the Sixth Dynasty, are to be seen a shell for holding eye-paint and a large bead, "the only objects buried with an old woman." By far the most interesting article of this period is the skull of a long-horned ox, which was found at the bottom of the shaft of a grave, where it had been placed, with one of the haunches, as an offering. The central teeth of both sides of the lower jaw were worn down as by a bit. As the horse was unknown at this period, there is reason to believe that the ox was driven or ridden.

THE OUESTION OF CORSETS.

"God made woman, and the corset the Parisienne." Thus Mme. Marcello Bordo, who, with other stars of the Paris stage, was recently asked to give her views on the vexed corset question. There are many who would quarrel with both of Mme. Marcelle Bordo's propositions, but the epigram is neat. So is Mme. Jeanne Granier's: "The corset is a charming thing when one puts it on, but exquisite when taken off." The ladies are generally, and naturally, I suppose, not in agreement on this subuseful. Wear it. but do not lace it tightly. 'detestable garment," and referred to it as a 'vulgar affectation." "If clothes do not make the man," says Mme. Andree Megard, "the corset, at all events, makes the woman." Mme. Belvair gives sensible advice: "The corset is Wear it, but do not lace it tightly. Mme. Vincourt thinks the corset is "woman's greatest tyrant, when it is not her greatest friend., "The flowers all have a corselet," says Mme. Sylviac, "and I shall only bring myself to seeing women without corsets when roses and carnations bloom without the calvx." And yet, if legend is to be believed, the inventor of the corset was a thirteenth-century butcher, desirous of punishing his gossiping wife!

"I am proud to say that my grandfather made his mark in the world," observed the conceited youth. "Well, I suppose he wasn't the only man in those days who couldn't write his name," replied his bored companion.,

While the sport of bullfight appeal to the average Anglowhich arouses the greatest enthu the Latin races, and no one w the bull ring, and seen a bullf the skill and courage of the fighters) engaged in it.

This sport dates back to th and is governed by strict laws. forced by the governments of in which they are held; and at e is a government official who has fines for any breaches of these r The new bull ring of the Cit

a structure composed entirely concrete, and has a seating capa seven thousand. It is built in frustrm of an inverted cone, view of the proceedings can be any part of it, and is divided the sol (sun) and the sombra round the upper tiers are privat poorer classes (peons) sit on while on the sombra the seats pensive, the front three rows b The ring proper s about e diameter, and is covered with sand, while surrounding it ther barrier about five feet high, and the concrete wall of the passage about six feet wide. be too closely pursued by a bull,

the barrier, and at intervals the shelters built against the conc one of which he can go, should the barrier also, which frequ There are double gates at interv rier, so that when a bull jumps doors can be opened, closing t so that when the bull reaches i be turned back into the ring. On entering the sombra sid opposite, the large gates thro toreros enter, while to the le

through which the bulls are le Immediately opposite the torer the judges' stand, where the state with a bugler beside him duties are to decide when eac contest is ended which fact is the toreros by a bugle call.

On each side of the ring ther of soldiers with loaded rifles; a precaution, as the peons are their disapproval of any of th by throwing empty bottles, etc once anything approaching to among these excitable Mexica ures have to be taken at once, well under way, it is difficult

it will stop. At any signs of general dis iers level their rifles at the though it has never yet been n ceed further than this, they are to do so should occasion aris eral knowledge of this has effect. The bulls are brought longing to the ring, from the they were bred, several days and on the morning of the fig dark pens, in which they are hours in order to enrage them. sidered fit to fight when from s of age, and they are special purpose, and being by na savage, and also being endo sharp horns, one makes a very to tackle.

We will imagine that the his place, the band strikes up and out rides a gorgeously a on a fine horse. This is the functions consist in asking th sion to hold the fight, and to in. He rides up to the judge' his plumed hat, bows, and quired permission, which, have ed, he turns and rides back is thrown open and in come the espadas or matadoros, by their respective cuadrilla three men on foot, the bande mounted men, the picadores. are the monosabios (servants two teams of three mules

caparisoned. This entrance is a very p the toreros wear most brillia sisting of short jackets and red, green or blue cloth, cover silver lace, pink silk stocking Their capes, which are of gold lace, are thrown over and they wear little three-co style of several centuries ago compelled by law to wear a when about to engage in a fi round black disk about two is to the upper part of the que

Led by the alguazil, th the ring, and salute the jud outwards, they march back bowing to the spectators, who

cheering wildly. The espadas throw their friend in the audience who fully on the rail in front of h sidered a great honor; the a ring, the picadors take up t the barrier, while the other different parts of the ring, as the fight to begin.

The judge gives the si blows a call, and the doors f the bull pens are thrown or bull who promptly charges sees, but with great coolness