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SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

[October 26.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

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No. 1.

*Sir J. Tilley to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 270.)

My Lord,

*Rio de Janeiro, October 3, 1922.*

NOW that the centenary celebrations are concluded, I have the honour to offer the following report upon them:—

2. The official ceremonies began with the presentation of credentials by the special representatives on the 6th September. Special Ambassadors had been sent by nearly all the American and many European States. The Papal See was well represented by Mgr. Cherubini, who made himself very popular; he was accompanied by a large staff of Monsignori and two imposing members of the Noble Guard. Belgium sent Burgomaster Max, who was much liked, but did not seem to me to be much noticed; he came with an attaché. The French Government appointed M. Conty, the resident Ambassador, to act as special Ambassador, but sent a large special mission of Deputies and professors, one of the Deputies being M. Fonck, the aviator, and some of them being accompanied by their wives and children. Italy sent General Caviglia, a highly distinguished but very modest representative. He was on excellent terms with our Embassy; he was accompanied only by an aide-de-camp. Czechoslovakia sent M. Mastny, who is well known to your Lordship. Bulgaria created astonishment by sending a special mission of three persons. The Ambassador could speak nothing but Bulgarian and Russian, and was never seen to speak even them; of his colleagues I saw nothing. The Argentine Government sent a M. Loza, who came with his wife and family. I gather that this choice was considered rather as an insult, M. Loza being a person of no position in his own country. He and his family made a bad impression, and began ill by arriving late. Brazil is always on the watch for insults from Argentina, and all this was carefully noted, as was the fact that the Argentine pavilion in the exhibition was about the last to be begun. M. Loza was accompanied by a very large mission, as also were the Uruguayan and Chilean special Ambassadors. Of the highly successful Mexican mission I have spoken in another despatch. The other Central and South American missions were unimportant, but most of them sent special representatives for the occasion. The other European countries were content with their existing representatives. There remains the United States mission to be described. Headed by Mr. Hughes, and including many imposing names, it should have made a great impression, but my feeling is that it made very little. Mr. Hughes gave me—and probably therefore others—the idea of being conscientiously civil to people whom he despised, and he stayed a very short time. Mr. Morgan (the United States Ambassador) sees no use in special missions. The Portuguese President came later, and I have written much already on the subject of his visit. The whole number of persons included in the special missions approached 300.

3. It occurs to me that I ought also to say a word of our own mission, which I took the liberty of inventing, as I assumed that your Lordship would wish me to have a special staff. I had heard casually from Mr. Chilton that General Bethell, the military attaché at Washington, was coming here to represent the British army, and I therefore described him to the Brazilian Government as military attaché to the mission; the permanent staff, including Captain Bailey, and with the addition of Colonel Cole and Lieutenant Sanceau, made up the number. For the purpose of the formal receptions of the mission I took with me Admiral Sir Walter Cowan and two attendant officers, as the United States Embassy included their admiral in the special mission; nobody made any objection, though the Japanese special Ambassador, to whom the idea had not occurred, was annoyed. The effect of describing General Bethell and Captain and Mrs. Bailey as members of the special mission was that they were lodged and fed at the expense of the Brazilian Government.

4. General Bethell has made himself very useful and popular by giving Brazilian officers instructions in polo; he has now, I hear, proceeded on an official visit to São Paulo. He and Captain Bailey unfortunately elected to come here not on a British ship, but on an American vessel with Mr. Hughes, and Captain Bailey was therefore

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