

#### BUENOS AIRES CONFERENCE (1910)

The fourth and last regular conference before the first World War was the Buenos Aires Conference of 1910. This conference adopted four conventions. Three of them dealt with the protection of intellectual and industrial property; and the fourth again extended the life of the pecuniary claims convention.

There were also many resolutions; but none of them were important. One of them, however, reorganized the International Bureau of the American Republics which now became the Pan American Union.

It is of interest to note in passing that in the same year the Pan American Union was given its beautiful building in Washington. The architect at least must have expected that Canada would sometime become a member; for the Board Room was provided with an extra chair on which the arms of Canada were carved; and the Canadian arms also appear on the walls of the patio amongst the arms of the twenty-one republics.

#### SANTIAGO CONFERENCE (1923)

Because of the war, the fifth regular conference was postponed until 1923; but a number of special and technical conferences met in the interval. The same thing has happened in this war. The ninth regular conference which was to have met in Bogota in 1943 has been postponed; but a number of important special conferences have met, some of which will be referred to below.

By the time that the fifth conference met at Santiago de Chile in 1923, the political picture in the Americas had changed considerably. the defeat of Germany and the birth of the League of Nations made the Latin American countries feel less dependent on the United States, the leadership of which in the Pan American movement now begins to be challenged for the first time.

On the other hand, United States intervention in certain Central American countries had not added to the popularity of that country in Latin America. All this brought about a crisis in Pan Americanism which did not, however, come to a head until the Havana Conference in 1928. Three republics even refrained from sending delegates to the Santiago Conference. One of these was Mexico.

Mexico refused to send a delegation because its government was not recognized by the United States and it had no representation on the Governing Board of the Pan American Union which at that time consisted of the diplomatic agents of the various republics accredited to the United States. This rule has now been changed, it now being possible for a member State to appoint a representative to the Board whether it is otherwise represented in Washington or not.

One feature of the Santiago Conference was the relatively large number of controversial political questions that were discussed. These included the Monroe Doctrine, the rights of aliens, a proposal for the creation of an American League of Nations, and the reduction of naval armaments. Since United States naval policy had been determined at the Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments the year before and none of the Latin American republics were naval powers, the last topic must have appeared academic to some observers.

The real purpose of the discussions, however, was to arrive at some agreement on the basis of which future expenditures could be limited. As it turned out no such agreement was reached. Neither was it possible to reach any agreement on the treatment of aliens.

The question of the Monroe Doctrine and the proposed American League were closely associated; for one of the principles on which the