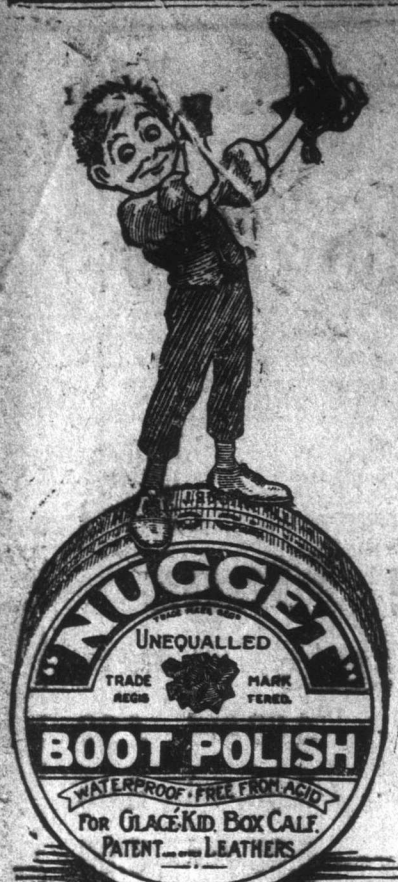




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M. Paul Cambon

M. Paul Cambon, eminent French statesman and diplomatist and formerly French Ambassador to England, who died in Paris on May 28, won international fame in the early days of the present century for his efforts in behalf of the agreement between Great Britain and France, concluded on April 8, 1904, when the powerful and far-reaching Entente Cordiale was brought into existence.

Pierre Paul Cambon was one of the three brothers, all of whom were conspicuous in French diplomatic affairs at the same time. Jules Cambon, later the best known of the three, was Ambassador to Washington, and the third brother was in a similar post to Constantinople.

M. Paul Cambon was born January 20, 1843. He was called to the Parisian Bar some 20 years later, and after 10 years of administrative work in various Government departments in the French capital, was transferred to the diplomatic service and appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at Tunis. In 1886 he became French Ambassador to Madrid, and two years later went to Constantinople in the same capacity. In 1899 he presented his credentials as Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

He was still in London when, six years later, the relations between Great Britain and France had reached a critical stage over the Fashoda incident in Egypt. King Edward VII, working carefully and secretly, had launched his programme to readjust Europe's equilibrium, and bring Great Britain, France and Russia together as a means of offsetting the powerful Triple Alliance between Germany, Austria and Italy. The late Theophile Delcasse represented France in the treaty negotiations while the British interests were looked after by the Marquis of Lansdowne.

Paul Cambon acted as intermediary during the negotiations, and it was largely through him that the many difficulties were ironed out. The public announcement that an agreement had been reached came suddenly late in 1904, and astounded the entire world.

The basis of the treaty provided for the French surrender to Great Britain of certain long-standing rights in Egypt, while Great Britain conceded that France occupied a privileged position in Morocco. Aside from settling these cardinal points, the treaty also wound up many other matters of controversy between the two nations. The treaty was hailed as the "Entente Cordiale" or the vehicle by which France and Great Britain were brought together into closer political alliance. Hardly less important to Europe was the fact that Russia came indirectly into the agreement through her previously existing alliance with France, hence King Edward's original purpose of uniting the three countries through such a treaty was accomplished.

M. Cambon negotiated and signed the final draft after M. Delcasse and Lord Lansdowne had agreed upon the essential terms. While its importance was not under-estimated, even at that time, there were perhaps none who foresaw the tremendous effect the Entente Cordiale would have ten years later, when the World War swept over Europe.

M. Cambon came prominently to the front in 1914, and played an important part in frustrating the efforts of Germany to separate France and Great Britain on the eve of the great struggle. He resigned his post in November, 1920. At a farewell luncheon given in London by the Foreign Press Association at that time in honor of the retiring Ambassador, the following telegram was received from Lord Camfordham, acting for King George:

"I am commanded to express the thanks of the King for the message received by His Majesty to-day from the Foreign Press Association in London on the occasion of their farewell to M. Cambon. The King realizes that this testimony of esteem for their distinguished guest cannot but be accompanied with feelings of deep regret that it marks the termination of a great career, including unique service as French Ambassador at the Court of St. James during the reigns of three successive Sovereigns, in which period of nearly a quarter of a century His Excellency has gained the confidence and affection of the British nation."

Hostile to every form of dogmatism, M. Cambon's mind and feelings were essentially liberal. So far as he was concerned, every political problem could be resolved, in the last analysis, into a few simple elements, the greater number of which contained the possibilities of a solution. To search for these solutions in the mutual interests of the two parties, and to search for them with frankness and the best of goodwill, was always the purpose he set before himself, and which he nearly always achieved. In the case of politicians the first quality he appreciated was force of character, and he was swift in discerning those presuppositions of a personal nature, or too great a regard for their parliamentary situation, which risked the clouding of their judgment. On one occasion he was strongly urged to accept the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, but declined, with the remark: "To be Minister of Foreign Affairs is an attractive proposition. But, after six, or twelve, or eighteen months, to be relegated to the crowd of ex-Foreign Ministers, who, when asked what they have done, can only say what they have failed to do. No, no, that would be really dreadful!"

M. Cambon looked upon the dissolution of the German spirit, whether in the political, scientific, or social form, as nothing more or less than the subordination of the human person to the state. And the state, the more its role was enlarged, inspired in him, despite the results obtained by Prussia, nothing but doubt and distrust. He reproached Berlin with having always listened to the voice of the tempter on the mountain and having sold the soul of Germany to gain all the kingdoms of the world. A power, however formidable it might be, but which lost every day a little more of the idea of the good and the true for the sake of the consequences of utility and force, seemed to him to be capable of the most desperate adventures. To reduce the government of a nation to the calculation of probabilities and to the most daring of political speculations was in the eyes of M. Cambon a criminal paradox. Beneath the rapidity of Germanic development his taste for moderation and his sense for proportion enabled him to discern causes of weakness which permitted the hope of the return to France of her two dear lost provinces.

Just after the funeral of Queen Victoria the Emperor William II, passing through the diplomatic salon at Windsor, approached M. Cambon and said, "We love France, and will not let anybody touch her." This declaration, in such a place and at such a time, surprised the Ambassador, who simply replied, "France is a great nation, and strong enough to defend herself against anybody who may dare to attack her." Cambon added, "What confidence can one have in such a man and one of such bad taste?" For him bad taste signified all the dangers which the heart and mind are made to run by the lack of scruple and sincerity. And thus he was not surprised, just before the armistice, to see the man who for more than twenty years had been spoken of as the arbiter of the world seek safety in flight and present himself at the Dutch frontier without having, in the words of Louis XIV, placed himself at the head of his army to save the state or perish with it.

M. Cambon received many honors in his lifetime. Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh universities gave him honorary degrees, while Great Britain created him a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order in 1903, and a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath in 1917. From his own country he received the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

Upon request of police of Lansdowne, Pa., detectives arrested Frank J. Evans, twenty-seven years old, of No. 5620 Ridgewood Avenue, Philadelphia, on a charge of abduction after an interview of several hours with Miss Dorothy Finley, nineteen years old, of Lansdowne, Pa. Miss Finley had been living alone in a furnished room at No. 330 West 85th Street, Manhattan, for the last month.

Information by a Wall Street brokerage house that references given by Miss Finley on May 14, when she applied for employment as a typist, were fictitious, police say, led to an investigation.

According to the police Miss Finley said she came to New York about a month ago in the company of Evans and that she engaged the room on West 85th Street where she has been living while in New York. She said Evans had come here from Philadelphia on several occasions to visit her.

The detectives induced Miss Finley to get into communication over the telephone with Evans at Philadelphia and request him to come here immediately. Miss Finley called Evans and when he came to the Wall Street address after a hurried trip he was arrested and locked up at Police Headquarters. Evans is said to be a business man in Philadelphia.

The arrest was made after the detectives had communicated with the police of Lansdowne, and were asked by Chief of Police Tine of that place to arrest Evans upon sight.

The girl told the detectives she had left her home in Lansdowne because of the attitude of her stepmother. She spoke respectfully of Evans who, the police say, is married.

Girl's Friendly Society

Thursday will be observed as the Annual Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the G.F.S. There will be a celebration of the Holy Communion at the Cathedral at 7 a.m., with an address by the Rev. J. B. Elliott. A social gathering will be held at the club rooms in the evening.

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