

## In Memoriam

DR. LEO S. ROWE

Director General of the Pan American Union

WITH the tragic death two weeks ago of Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, there was brought to a close one of the most constructive careers, and one of the most truly valuable lives of our times.

When he was killed by an automobile in the streets of Washington, Dr. Rowe was seventy-five years of age. Yet to those of us who knew him well the toll which the passage of the years had taken of him seemed very slight indeed. His mentality was as quick and vigorous as it had ever been. His fabulous energy was unimpaired. Had he been spared, he undoubtedly would have been able to render an even greater record of service to the great cause with which he had so long been identified—the cause of inter-American friendship, understanding and solidarity. At this moment in the history of the Western Hemisphere I can think of no one individual whom the peoples of the Americas could so ill afford to spare as Dr. Rowe.

It is not often that we find among our public servants a man of outstanding ability who has not only pursued one ideal throughout his adult life, but who, through his individual efforts, has also been afforded the opportunity of consistently furthering that ideal, and of bringing it markedly nearer attainment. Dr. Rowe was one of those rare men. He once told me that his determination to devote himself to the promotion of inter-American friendship was first formed when he was in his early twenties, and that every step that he had subsequently taken had been taken with that one end in view.

His first practical experience in Latin America was that which he obtained during the McKinley administration as a member of a Commission appointed to codify the laws of Puerto Rico, and subsequently as Chairman of the Insular Code Commission. As soon as that work had been completed, he commenced an intensive self-education in every branch of Latin-American affairs. He traveled extensively through all parts of South and Central America. He began those close friendships with leading men in all of the other American Republics, particularly with prominent figures in the political, professional, and educational fields, which later resulted in his becoming the North American who probably had more devoted personal friends in the nations to the south of us than any other citizen of the United States.

He served as a delegate from this country to the Pan American Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1906 at which Elihu Root, then Secretary of State of the United States, delivered that epochal address which contributed so much to the development of sounder and healthier foundations for inter-American relations. During the next ten years he was constantly active in both official and unofficial endeavors to strengthen inter-American ties. He accepted the appointment in 1917 by President Wilson as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury primarily because of the fact that the work then offered him in the Treasury Department was chiefly concerned with the problems of Pan American financial policy which had grown up in the course of the First World War.

When in 1919 it seemed probable that he would be elected the following year by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union to succeed John Barrett as Director General of the Pan-American Union, he was named Chief of what was then called the Latin American Division of the Department of State. He took this post as a means of preparing himself for his subsequent work in the Pan American Union. It was then that I myself was first brought intimately into contact with Dr. Rowe. I served under him as Assistant Chief of the Division, and later, when he went to the Pan American Union, succeeded him as Chief of the Division.

The year 1920 was an exceedingly critical year in the history of the relations between the United States and the other American Republics. After the First World War there was to be noted the same letdown in idealism, and in the public recognition of the need of maintaining an equal fervor in the task of peace-making as there had been in the waging of the war, that we see today. But twenty-five years ago, misunderstandings, antagonisms, and suspicions existed among the American nations on a scale far greater than that which is current now.

Those Latin American countries which had joined the United States in the First World War were profoundly resentful because of their exclusion from any real participation in the Paris Peace Conference. All of the American countries were uneasy because of the economic uncertainties with which they were confronted. Such dangerous inter-American disputes as the Tacna-Arica controversy between Chile and Peru, the bitter antagonism between Mexico and the United States, and the boundary controversies in Central America were a continuing menace to the peace of the New World. And what was perhaps most acute of all was the wave of indignation

which had swept over all of Latin America by reason of the military occupation by the United States during the years of the First World War of two independent American Republics, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

There was no one of these problems which Dr. Rowe did not help to compose. I remember, in particular, that before he left the Department of State, he devoted himself during a period of many months to an endeavor to find the means by which the prompt evacuation by American forces of the Dominican Republic might be brought about, and by which the determination of the destinies of that nation might be at once returned to the Dominican people. Then, as always, he opposed to the fullest extent of his influence every manifestation of policy on the part of the United States which implied interference and intervention on the part of this country in the sovereign concerns of the other peoples of the Americas. It was not only that, as a true democrat, he denied the right of any country, merely because of its power, to crush the liberties of other independent peoples solely because they were smaller and weaker. He also clearly saw that no inter-American understanding could ever be established upon a lasting basis unless it was founded on an unvarying respect for the equal sovereignty of all the American States.

I know of nothing, consequently, which afforded Dr. Rowe more profound satisfaction than the announcement by President Roosevelt of the Good Neighbor Policy in 1933, and the development of that policy during the succeeding years. It was a policy wholly in accord with his own convictions. There can be no question as to the magnitude of the contribution which Dr. Rowe, as Director General of the Pan American Union, himself made toward the ultimate success of that policy, and toward the elaboration of all of the many co-operative mechanisms, and of all of the many inter-American agreements which were brought into being as a result of the Good Neighbor Policy.

As Director General of the Union he himself necessarily attended all of the inter-American conferences which took place during these years. By the decision of the American Governments, the agenda for all Pan American Conferences are decided upon by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union. Every member of the Board has appreciated the notable part which Dr. Rowe has played in adjusting differences as they arose, in smoothing over misunderstandings, and in helping to make certain that when conferences finally assembled, prior understandings had previously been

reached so that the conferences would be more likely to accomplish their objectives successfully. Upon innumerable occasions, Dr. Rowe, as the trusted servant of every American Government, and as the trusted friend of most of the statesmen in the American countries, was able, because of his ability, his comprehension, and his tact, to bring about agreements and to insure the attainment of results which were in the best interests of the entire Hemisphere.

But his interest in the advancement of the trade and financial relations between the American Republics, and in the promotion of cultural ties between all of the American peoples, was no less than his interest in furthering political understandings. Under his direction the Pan American Union became a great clearing house for authoritative information covering every aspect of the political, economic, social and cultural life of the twenty-one American Republics. It also became what it should be, a meeting ground for all citizens of the nations of the Western Hemisphere. By his inspiration the activities of the Union were consistently enlarged in scope and in volume. Due to him the Pan-American Union is today regarded by every American Government and by civilians throughout the Americas as an authoritative and ever-responsive source for all of the information which they may need with regard to the American Republics.

While the field of his own immediate endeavors was restricted to the New World, I have known no more sincere believer in the need for international organization and for the creation of a universal world order than Dr. Rowe. The failure of the League of Nations was to him an immeasurable tragedy. The advent of the United Nations was a cause for new hope and encouragement. The existence of the inter-American system represented to him a great bulwark for the United Nations Organization, although he felt, I believe, that the regional system of the Americas, if given the opportunity by the United Nations, would itself best be able to solve equitably and successfully every controversy and every problem which might arise in the Western Hemisphere.

Dr. Rowe was a statesman of far-reaching vision. His accomplishments are recognized in every country of the New World. But to a vast number of the citizens of the American nations he was far more than that. There was never a more loyal, a more devoted, nor a more unselfish friend. Every member of the Latin-American Diplomatic Corps in Washington, and many officials of our Hemisphere, during these past twenty-five years, have felt that they possessed in the Director General of the Pan American Union

a wise counsellor and a trusted colleague. But I have known also of many less publicized cases where young men and women coming here from the neighboring Republics of the South have, through his kindness and his interest, been given a chance, which they would not otherwise have had, to make profitable and successful careers for themselves. Few have ever given themselves so actively in the service of others as Dr. Rowe.

When Dr. Rowe celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment as Director General of the Pan American Union a year ago, the *New York Times* said, "The lives of the man and of the organization have been so closely linked for so long that it is difficult to think of one without thinking of the other." That is very true. The Pan American Union of today stands as a tangible reminder of the work which Dr. Rowe has done. But his greatest service to the welfare of the countries of the New World is less tangible although destined to be equally enduring. It will ever be remembered in that increasing friendship and understanding between the people of the Americas, and in that growth of Pan American solidarity, which we now witness, to the furtherance of which he had dedicated his life, and to which he had so greatly contributed.

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#### THE PRESERVATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ARCHIVES

A TRAINING program in the preservation and administration of archives was offered from June 11 to 30 in Washington, D. C. by the American University, in coöperation with the National Archives and the Maryland Hall of Records. The course was prepared with a view to the needs on institutional and state archivists, and consisted of lectures on the principles of archival administration and of practical (laboratory) instruction in cataloging, indexing, calendaring, and accessioning, and in laminating, silking, and other repair processes. The laboratory sessions were held at the National Archives and at the Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis. The instructors were Ernest Posner, of the National Archives and the American University and Morris L. Radoff, archivist of Maryland, assisted by members of the National Archives staff. On June 29, Thomas F. O'Connor, historiographer of the Archdiocese of New York, addressed the group on the archives of Catholic institutions and organizations in the United States.