

CURRENT NOTES

JESSE SIDDALL REEVES
1872-1942

Jesse Siddall Reeves, for many years Vice-President of the American Society of International Law and a member of the Board of Editors of its *JOURNAL*, died July 7, 1942, after having rounded out a useful, happy, and successful life of more than the allotted three score years and ten. I use the words "rounded out" advisedly, for Jesse Reeves was preëminently an example of the Greek ideal of universality. His interests were as multifarious as his attainments were significant.

He was born on January 27, 1872, at Richmond, Indiana. He came of fine old colonial stock. His parents were leading citizens of the community. No one could be better born. At a very early age he entered the Preparatory Department of Earlham College and later spent a year in Earlham College. Thereafter he transferred to Kenyon College and completed his course at Amherst, receiving his B.S. degree from Amherst in 1891 and his doctor's degree in History from Johns Hopkins in 1894. Later on Amherst, his Alma Mater, was to confer on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, and Williams College the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. While still a graduate student at Johns Hopkins he had served as Instructor in American History in Woman's College (now Goucher) from 1893 to 1894, but in 1897 he entered the practice of law in his native city of Richmond, Indiana, and pursued it for ten years, taking an active part in public and political affairs in his native city and acquiring thereby much practical wisdom which was later to profit his students. But he was at heart a teacher of political science rather than a practicing lawyer. In 1905-1906 he interrupted his legal practice to lecture on Diplomatic History at Johns Hopkins University, and in 1907 he definitely abandoned the active practice of the law for an academic career by accepting an appointment as Assistant Professor of Political Science at Dartmouth College. In 1910 he went to the University of Michigan as Chairman of the Department of Political Science and entered upon his life work there which only closed with his automatic retirement from the Michigan faculty in February, 1942.

In 1899 he married Ellen Howell Griswold of Baltimore. Mrs. Reeves, a son, Arthur Griswold Reeves, a daughter, Mrs. Ellen Reeves Gage, and two granddaughters survive him.

Jesse Reeves was a teacher, and a distinguished teacher, but he was not merely a teacher as the following notations from his biography will amply demonstrate. He was Captain, Major, and Judge Advocate of the 20th Division in the World War. He was for years a member of the Board of Advisers and a Round Table leader at the Williamstown Institute of Politics.

He was lecturer at the Academy of International Law at The Hague in 1924; American member of the Pan American Commission of Jurists for the Codification of International Law in 1925-27; Technical Adviser to the American delegation to the Hague Conference on Codification of International Law, 1930. He was a member of the American Institute of International Law, the American Historical Association, the American Philosophical Society, the American Political Science Association, of which he was President in 1928, and *Associé, Institut de Droit International*, 1932. And last but not least in his affections and interest, he was a member and one of the leading spirits of the American Society of International Law from its first year and an Honorary Vice-President of the Society at the time of his death.

Mr. Reeves' scholarship and interest in the American Society of International Law are reflected in innumerable articles, addresses, editorials, and particularly book reviews scattered throughout the volumes of the JOURNAL and the Proceedings of the Society. The mere listing of his contributions takes up about a page and a half of the two volumes of the Analytical Index to the JOURNAL, Supplements and Proceedings. The variety of the subjects dealt with in his contributions was in itself remarkable and proof of the catholicity of his interests. Many of these contributions were interesting and timely comment upon current international events. Others, like his articles on Grotius, of whose works he was an editor (this JOURNAL, Vol. 19, (1925), pp. 12 and 251), and his work as reporter of the draft on diplomatic privileges and immunities for the Harvard Research in International Law (Supplement to the JOURNAL, Vol. 26 (1932), pp. 15-187), were works of painstaking scholarship.

Jesse Reeves was a scholar, and a distinguished scholar, but he was not merely a scholar. He was a scholar with wide human interests and who had not only the desire but the ability to present the results of his scholarship both in speech and in writing to the ordinary citizen in a way to make them both useful and attractive. An outstanding instance of this is his early monograph on American Diplomacy under Tyler and Polk, which he wrote while still engaged in the practice of the law. In a discriminating review of this work by Howard Lee McBain which appeared in Volume 3 of the JOURNAL, the reviewer, who was inclined to take issue with Dr. Reeves on some points, summed up his opinion of the work as a whole in the words, "a pre-eminently scholarly treatment," while at the same time the work was receiving favorable notice from the more thoughtful reviewers of the daily press who commended the book as good reading for the intelligent layman interested in foreign affairs.

Jesse Reeves was a teacher and scholar, but he was more than this—he was a man. Under a somewhat austere exterior his friends were not slow in discovering a ready wit and a tender heart, and as one of his Michigan colleagues has justly recorded, he was "ever ready to champion a just cause, no matter how humble its nature." He was one of those vivid personalities

whom those who knew him well will not soon forget. Life for them will be lonelier for his absence. In writing about his long-time friend, Professor Garner, in this JOURNAL for 1939 (p. 104), Jesse Reeves said, "His death comes as the grievous loss of a great teacher to his many devoted pupils, as a lasting deprivation to the scholars who have for so long a time enjoyed the fruits of his pen, and as a poignant blow to those both here and abroad who were privileged in his friendship." I can think of no more fitting words for his own epitaph.

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POST-WAR PLANS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION¹

BY WILLIAM R. VALLANCE

Secretary General of the Inter-American Bar Association

Recognition of the great possibilities for usefulness possessed by the Inter-American Bar Association in connection with post-war problems was the outstanding feature of the meeting of the Council and Committees of the Inter-American Bar Association held in the Pan American Union Building, Washington, D. C., November 19–21, 1942. Despite difficulties of transportation and other war conditions, over 150 leaders of the bar assembled for the opening session in the beautiful Hall of the Americas. Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, in his address of welcome stated "that the importance of greater uniformity in legal standards throughout the continent was realized early in the history of the American Republics and has been recognized in both diplomatic and technical conferences of a Pan American character." He expressed the opinion that juristic advances can be accomplished through this new organization, and "important results attained through closer acquaintance between individual jurists in different sections of the continent and through closer contact between their group organizations" which would further the cause of Pan American solidarity.

Speaking on behalf of the lawyers of Washington, Mr. Paul B. Cromelin, President of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, extended a hearty welcome to the distinguished visitors and referred to the common pur-

¹ The Inter-American Bar Association was organized on May 16, 1940, at the close of the Eighth American Scientific Congress held in Washington, D. C. (See Conference Proceedings, pp. 202–203; 212–215.) The Inter-American Bar Association has announced the publication of two volumes, one in Spanish and the other in English, containing the Constitution, By-Laws, Organization Proceedings and the Proceedings at the First Conference of the Association held in Habana, Cuba, March 24–28, 1941. Each volume will be bound in cloth and will contain approximately 480 pages. Many important addresses by leaders of the bar of this hemisphere will be obtainable in these volumes of which a limited edition will be published. Single copies are \$3.00 each, or both volumes may be obtained for \$5.00. The volumes are edited by two distinguished legal scholars, the English edition by Dr. Lawrence Deems Egbert, and the Spanish edition by Dr. Raoul Herrera-Arrango.—W. R. V.