

UNIVERSAL CONGRESS OF
LAWYERS AND JURISTS

OFFICIAL REPORT
OF THE
**Universal Congress of Lawyers
and Jurists**

HELD AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, U. S. A.
SEPTEMBER 28, 29, AND 30, 1904

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE UNIVERSAL EXPOSITION
AND
THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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PREFACE

The Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists was held in St. Louis, September 28, 29 and 30, 1904, under the auspices of the Universal Exposition and the American Bar Association. The development of the plan and scope of the Congress, its constituent elements and the details of its organization were in the hands of a committee, composed of representatives from the larger committees that were appointed by the Universal Exposition, the American Bar Association and the Bar Association of St. Louis. The composition of these committees and a report of their labors will be found herein under the heading of "History of the Organization of the Congress." (See Appendix A.)

The members of the Congress, nearly a thousand in number, were named by the various Governments, to whom invitations had been extended through the American State Department, by bar associations, orders of advocates and kindred organizations in different countries of the world, by the law faculties of universities and schools of law, and from the profession at large by the committee itself. The American members, naturally greatest in number, included one hundred and twenty-five Delegates named by President ROOSEVELT in behalf of the United States Government, those judges of the Federal courts and State appellate courts of last resort who accepted the invitations sent to them to become members of the Congress; one hundred Delegates appointed by the American Bar Association, Delegates from each State or Territorial bar association, or appointed by the judges of the highest

court in any State or Territory not having such an association; Delegates from the law faculty of each State university or school of law belonging to the Association of American Law Schools, and lastly, certain Delegates-at-large, specially appointed, the number of which was about one hundred.

The expressed objects of the Congress were the consideration of the history and efficacy of the various systems of jurisprudence and the discussion of those questions of international, municipal and maritime law which concern the welfare of all civilized nations; the hope of contributing to greater harmony in the principles and the forms of procedure upon which the law of civilized nations should be based; the bringing of lawyers and jurists from all parts of the world into contact for the purpose of exchanging views on the principles and methods of the correct administration of justice, and the establishing of closer relations and associations between members of the profession upon which the administration of justice depends.

Nearly five hundred Delegates, slightly over half the number of those accredited, and representing nineteen different countries, were present at the Congress, an admirable showing when it is borne in mind that many of the appointments were of an honorary character, given largely as a mark of recognition of high standing in the profession, and not always with the expectation that the appointees could undertake the long journey to St. Louis. From many of those who could not come were received letters warmly indorsing the plan of the Congress, bespeaking it every success, and expressing deep regret that they could not be present. It is a source of gratification to all the participants in the Congress that it did bring together so

large a number of members of the profession, both active and emeritus, not only because of the resulting valuable exchange of ideas on methods of administering justice and strengthening of agencies for securing, ultimately, an effective tribunal for the peaceful solution of international difficulties, but also because of the rare opportunity afforded for lawyers of different countries to become acquainted with one another.

A satisfactory feature of the Congress, composed as it was of a preponderance of English-speaking Delegates, was that nearly all the speakers were able to discourse in the English language. The editor of this report has endeavored to present the papers and speeches just as delivered, making few if any changes in construction, and only a few changes of words. It was thought that the foreign use of the English medium added a piquancy to the discussion which more than compensated for any inaccuracy of English idiom.

The Congress, following the recommendation of its Committee of Nations, to which under the rules were referred all proposed resolutions, has expressed its views on several subjects of international importance and of professional interest. On some subjects which, because they were in nature political or economic, were not deemed germane to the purposes of the Congress, it declined to give an opinion. Other subjects which, on account of the limited time at the disposal of the Congress, could not receive adequate consideration, it has referred to the American Bar Association to be presented to some future congress.

THE EDITOR.