

ence, establish that all the funds received by the Museum, shall be delivered to the treasurer, who shall render his accounts to the chairmen of the two municipal councils of Philadelphia, without the right to invest any sum without their consent, except it be for the preservation of the Museum and for salaries of the employees.

These, Messrs. Delegates, are the antecedents that reached the hands of the sub-committee, and in view of them, it could do no less than inform the Committee that, in its judgment, the Museum of Philadelphia were a public institution, in the clear sense of this world.

The representatives of certain private agencies inform, as appears, not only the Committee, but also, as Mr. Walker Martinez has said, all of the honorable members of the Conference, that in the Museum there has been organized a section to furnish reports. This must be so, Messrs. Delegates, judging by the energy with which this statement is made, according to the photographs presented, and, in brief, according to all the notes that have reached us. But, as stated in the report presented to the Conference, the vote that has been sought is not in favor of the institution in general, but in favor of the Commercial Museum, and limiting myself to it, I ought to say, for the Delegates that are not personally acquainted with it, unfortunately I am one of them, that according to the reports of the persons who in fact know it, this institution is beneficial to international commerce. In the first place, it is constituted by official donations from many of the Governments of America; it appears that it embraces very important collections of samples of products from all the nations of America and even of the entire world; it is an institution considered in such manner respectable, important and favorable for the development of international traffic, that twice, and under the patronage of the Government of the United States, it has called upon the entire world to celebrate congresses, which have been celebrated, and the Governments of the whole world, have appointed representatives to assist at those congresses. At this moment I recall that the Honorable President of this Conference was delegate of the Government of Mexico at the last one held.

If, then, this institution is vested with such importance, if all the data that has reached the Committee has proved that this is a matter that may contribute to the development of international traffic, which is one of the objects that calls us together here, the Committee has done its duty, since it does not conflict with private interests, with which it has nothing whatever to do, but limiting itself solely to international ends, in submitting, as it has submitted respectfully, to the consideration of the Honorable Delegates, a resolution, in which the Museums of Philadelphia are not recommended in general, but are declared to be of public utility and simply recommending to the respective governments that, as has been done at former times, that they send and continue sending reports and publications of general character.

Permit me to call the attention of the Conference to the wording of the resolution proposed, and which refers to documents, reports and publications of general character, that may be favorable to mercantile traffic.

These reasons, gentlemen, form the basis upon

which has been founded the proposition of the resolution in question.

*His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez.*—I desire to simply add a few words to those already uttered by the Honorable Mr. Macedo.

I comprehend the idea of the Committee, and His Excellency has also understood mine, since the Committee has had the same hesitations that I have felt. Then, I affirm that if those hesitations are justified, if I reach a conviction contrary to that of the Honorable Mr. Macedo, and to that of the other members of the Committee, with regard to the statements made in the documents on hand, and which I do not want to read, because I do not want to debate upon this matter, at least, they will find well founded the resolution that I propose.

Moreover, I do not expect a vote to be taken that will infer an injury upon the report under discussion, but as the institution in question is vested with a commercial character in union with a public character, I say, that under such circumstances, what reason is there to anticipate this resolution, for not submitting it to the examination of the Governing Board of the American Republics, presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United States? If that Board is presided over by one of the most notable personages of the United States, would it not be more secure, would it not be more proper to leave this matter for its examination and resolution?

Furthermore, the proposition that I present is not for the purpose of rejecting, nor of disapproving the resolution now being debated; it is merely a postponement of the question, in order that it may be acted upon with greater certainty. I think that the representatives of the nations of America found in the United States, will be able to study this question more calmly.

For this reason I beg to be permitted to ask the Committee if it accepts my proposition, which simply tends to postpone resolution upon this affair.

*His Excellency Mr. Pepper, Delegate from the United States of America.*—Mr. President: I regret very much that the Committee cannot accept the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague from Chili. If this were accepted, I fear that when the next Pan-American Congress meets, some private mercantile agency might complain that the Bureau of American Republics was infringing on its ground, and ask us to dispense with the Bureau. The matter has been carefully considered by the Committee, as Mr. Macedo has said, and I do not think that anything is to be gained by carrying it over, and referring it to the Governing Board of the American Republics. The Bureau has worked in great harmony with the Museum; they have been mutually helpful in the past, and I have no doubt that they will continue to be so in the future on the basis proposed.

*Secretary Duret.*—The Committee not having accepted the amendment made by His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez, said amendment is now placed under discussion.

*His Excellency Mr. Anadon, Delegate from the Argentine Republic.*—Permit me to suggest to my honorable colleagues of the Committee that it would be well to adjourn discussion on this matter, so that it may be considered to-day, and acted upon after the closing of the session.

The proposition of the Honorable Mr. Walker Martinez I find in principle to be acceptable, and I do not feel like voting against it, in conscience, without due reflection.

*His Excellency Mr. Baez, Delegate from Paraguay.*—The Committee on Commerce and Reciprocity is composed of nine members, and truly the proposition of the Honorable Delegate from Chili takes us by surprise, and we have not had time to exchange ideas with respect to it; but for the sake of the spirit of harmony that ought to reign in the Conference, it is well to take it into consideration. I am also of the opinion that it is best to postpone discussion, so that the Committee, by majority, may arrive at a decision.

*Secretary Duret.*—By virtue of what has been stated by some of the members of the Committee, it is asked if discussion on this matter be postponed until the next session. Same is postponed.

SESSION OF JANUARY 27, 1902.

*Secretary Macedo.*—Following the order of the day, discussion will now be continued upon the amendment presented by His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez, to the report of the Committee on Commerce and Reciprocity, relative to the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia.

*His Excellency Mr. Pablo Macedo, Delegate from Mexico.*—I take the floor to state simply that the Committee met after the last session, to consider the motion of the Honorable Walker Martinez, and has done so again this morning, and finds itself under the painful necessity of not accepting it, and maintains its report.

*His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez, Delegate from Chili.*—I am sorry that the Committee has not accepted my proposition, and in turn would state that I maintain it. Permit me to add more data.

With analagous pretensions to those made in the project, one was presented to the Congress of the United States, in which like favor was solicited for the Museum of Philadelphia, a project that met with no success in that legislative body, for while that institution has a public section dedicated to Museum, there is at the same time pending a question of private interests, in which it seems to me the Conference ought not to enter. I think, therefore, that we should follow the example of the Congress of the United States and not mix in these affairs that are entirely private.

I have known that the subventions once enjoyed by this Museum have been withdrawn from it, and as last resort, in view of the difficulties that we encounter to study all the antecedents to which Mr. Macedo alluded yesterday, I have judged it well to bring to the Conference the documents that have been sent to the Delegates, and it seems still more improper to me to enter upon a discussion in this Assembly of a proposition in which private interests are involved.

For this reason I find myself obliged to maintain my proposition, which is not definitely adverse to the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia, because as I declared yesterday, I will be the first to visit it and to recommend my country to send collections to it, if I find that it is an institution of public character. As it intermingles private interests, demonstrated by the contracts and receipts which I have in my possession, wherein it appear that said Mu-

seum receives one thousand dollars per year as commission, I do not think it proper that the Conference engage in these questions. For this reason I have stated that I would abstain from casting my vote.

In reality, Sir, it is a question of two institutions established in the United States, and, consequently there is no question whatever as to nationality. For this reason I have asked that the project go for examination to the Bureau of American Republics, wherein we are all represented, and which in addition is presided over by the Secretary of State of the United States; all necessary data to enable us to study and conscientiously judge this matter may there be obtained.

Thus, Mr. President, not being able to give my vote in this matter, I have conceived this measure, which does not injure the rights of anyone.

*His Excellency Mr. Pablo Macedo, Delegate from Mexico.*—Mr. President: I do not wish to leave this Conference under the impression that the Committee enters upon the prohibited territory of recommending an institution, neither public nor private. The Committee does not recommend the Museum of Philadelphia: if His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez will please examine the terms of the proposition, he will be convinced of just what the Committee recommends, that is, that our respective nations complete and renew the collections that have been remitted to the Museum of Philadelphia. Private interests may, led on by selfish suspicions, give the phase it wishes to his recommendation; but it should be stated that the Committee does not intend to recommend an institution as against another, be it public or private.

The Committee would also state, that in fact it has had time, for it has been its duty, to examine the documents contained in the archives of this matter in the hands of the Secretary, documents which, if Mr. Walker Martinez desires, he may read; and from those documents it results, I again repeat, that the Museum of Philadelphia, is a public institution, sustained by funds of the city and governed by the highest authorities, and who are denounced in the papers that have reached the hands of the Delegates, as bandits, this is the very word used. The Committee cannot endorse an indecent imputation of this character without working injury to the American Delegation and to this Conference. The Committee does not come here to favor private matters, and on this point I desire to be most emphatically understood, because it is on this ground that the discussion has been placed.

Moreover, I repeat, the documents in the hands of the Secretary may be read; they are the by-laws of the Philadelphia Museum, that have come through the hands of the American Delegation, and although they are not legalized by a notary, if any doubt is entertained, the American Delegation will respond for their authenticity. And when from the same it results that what I have just said is true, I for one cannot accept, either for myself or for my colleagues of the Committee that it be said in any manner whatsoever, either direct or indirect, that we defend private interests: this is not our object; here to all that savors of private interests, the door is closed. Our situation in this case is the same as if we were enjoined to recommend the development and traffic of postal packages, an action that would create competition with the express, charged with the trans-

portation of packages. It is true express companies carry packages, for which they are paid, also that the postal department carries packages, for which it is paid, and if we recommend the postal department, we do so for the reason that it is a national institution in the service of the public, and by so doing we neither favor nor combat private interests.

*His Excellency Mr. Calvo, Delegate from Costa Rica.*—I have heard, among the arguments adduced by the Honorable Mr. Walker Martinez, that the Congress of the United States refused to subsidize the Museum of Philadelphia. That fact may be true, but it has nothing to do with the question of private interests, to which he refers. The Congress of the United States decreed that three hundred thousand dollars be given as subvention to the Museums of Philadelphia, to help pay the expenses of the last Commercial Congress held in that City. Later on a petition was made to obtain more funds, which the Congress refused; but this, in my opinion, is not particularly strange. I recall at this moment a petition made by the State of Mississippi soliciting a subvention for the construction of a bridge, which Congress refused, and, notwithstanding, I do not think that such action affects in aught the State of Mississippi, nor has it in any manner aught to do with the institutions of the State.

Moreover, as already explained, the Museums of Philadelphia are not business institutions; they naturally need funds to enable them to exist; the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania have assisted them sufficiently, giving them the land upon which the edifices occupied by the Exposition during the Commercial Congress were constructed, and to which I have before referred. And it has been said that it collects a certain amount for the reports that it gives, but this is due to the fact that it has to sustain itself; and it is evident also that it encourages commerce, not only among the American countries, but among those of the whole world.

I think then, that for the development of commerce, the Museums of Philadelphia are vested with an importance of the first order, and when it is considered that a Committee composed of nine Honorable Delegates have devoted so much attention to the matter and have exercised such scrupulous care in preparing a report that in naught injures private interests of any other company or corporation, the Conference ought to hold that this resolution be accepted, in as much as it has its inspiration from one of the ideals that has brought this Conference together, that of strengthening the relations existing between our countries.

*His Excellency Mr. Guachalla, Delegate from Bolivia.*—I also, Mr. President, feel the necessity of saying a word upon this subject.

When it was passed to the Committee, we devoted our attention to it with all the care that it merited, in order to avoid that in our recommendation the least trace of private affairs be intermingled, subjects with which this Conference has naught to do; but the minute examination made by the sub-committee, composed of Messrs. Macedo and Alvarez Calderon, convinced us that it was not a question of private interests, and we arrived at the conclusion that we ought to limit our recommendation to the Museums of Philadelphia,—a public institution,—without taking at all into account the private interest has by those forming those museums, as re-

gards the mercantile part. The report to states, with a clarity that leaves that leaves place to no kind of doubt.

With regard to the Museums, those among us who have been enabled to visit them, can affirm that they not only have progressed but only a few months ago, as I had opportunity to know, a new edifice, a new palace was constructed, for the purpose of enlarging the establishment. We are then, perfectly persuaded that it is a duty on our part to pronounce a word of praise for that institution and more so for the reason that we have thus recommended it already in another form: Costa Rica, Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia and other countries have ceded their collections, after the exposition to that Museum, and if this has been done before, why not do it now in the form that we propose?

Moreover, I do not think that the Conference is deciding a matter of such contradictory and contentious nature as to justify it in referring this point to the Governing Board of the American Republics; and not being a contest that ought to be decided, why postpone this recommendation when we have the conviction that in so doing we are complying with a duty.

Consequently, I, as member of the Committee, who in the first moments and when the proposition was made believed it scarcely correct, convinced later of its utility, and more still, of its absolute necessity, have given my signature, and believe it my duty to explain the reason for the vote that within a few moments I am to cast.

*His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez.*—I am going to say two words, Mr. President, for the purpose of clearing the point in discussion.

I ought to commence by recalling the words used in conclusion by the honorable member of the Committee, Mr. Guachalla, in saying that at the commencement he was one of those who vacillated in giving his vote; we have heard made a like declaration by two other Delegates, members also of the Committee, Messrs. Anadon and Macedo. In consequence, the remark that I made yesterday in stating that I was perplexed, in this case, coincides with the situation in which the members of the Committee have found themselves: all have been perplexed at one time, because all have thought that they saw in this question certain private interests.

With the Committee I applaud the fact that the governments send and renew the collections of the Museum; but as this institution has moreover a section of commercial character, which is combated by another institution, this places us, gentlemen, in a situation where we are obliged to resolve questions of private interests, and into this danger I do not want to enter and it is necessary to seek an exit.

I belong to a country in which the doctrinary party press enjoys no subvention; it does not profit, but spends and losses money. In that country, a wide field has been opened to all the industries and all sorts of business, as also to banking institutions, and there cannot be found a single privileged bank, all flee from anything that signifies that the official sword has been placed upon the plate of the balance.

With this criterion, then, I cannot give my affirmative vote in this case, and as I do not desire, on the other hand, to cast it in the negative, for I see some advantages in the recommendation, I have proposed that this matter pass for examination to

the Committee of the American Republics, in order that it may render a proper resolution.

I am now going to reply briefly a remark made by the Honorable Mr. Macedo. I have not received the insolent communications spoken of by His Excellency, but a letter only in which a copy of another is transmitted, directed very respectfully to a member of the Conference. No document has reached my hands like those referred to by His Excellency Mr. Macedo, and moreover, I ought to state that I have not read any of those that have been sent me. Furthermore, I do not ask that the proposition be rejected; I simply say, let us turn over this question to that other authority, because we ought not to decide it, in my opinion, and, therefore, I seek a means that will leave the door open to both parties interested. I do not wish to give cause, under pretext of protecting a museum, for it to be said to-morrow that this Museum has been recommended by the Pan-American Congress. In monarchies there is a hair-dresser for the queen, a perfumer, a hatter for the king, and, in future, we are going to have applications for the positions of hair-dresser and perfumer for the Pan-Americans. Messrs. Delegates, this does not seem proper to me.

*His Excellency Mr. Anadon, Delegate from the Argentine Republic.*—Mr. President: I feel the necessity of speaking, because the situation of the Argentine delegation, in whose name I speak, is especial.

In the last session, as Mr. Walker Martinez must recall very well, I stated after the proposition formulated by him, that in conscience I could not vote upon the new form presented. My doubts arose, Mr. President, from the fear I entertained, that those private interests considering themselves injured, might put and surely would put in question, the irreproachable justice of our procedure; but my honorable friend Mr. Macedo vanished those doubts, as he had formed part with the Honorable Mr. Alvarez Calderon, of the sub-committee charged with the duty on reporting upon the matter, and was better informed than the members of the Committee, of all its details, and in a condition to appreciate, that the institution of the Museums of Philadelphia merits the special recommendation that the project makes. I also feared, gentlemen, that private interest, wounded by the commercial competition that at times takes ferocious forms, when it is a question of great capital, might, I repeat, accuse the International American Conference of having allowed itself to suggest the recommendation of interests more or less doubtful.

These were the motives that led me to present my first motion. We then passed to deliberate anew upon the matter, and I stated to my honorable colleagues of the Committee the convenience of removing every scruple, and that it might appear in an explicit manner in the resolution that the recommendation does not refer in any manner to the section of the Museum of Philadelphia that gives commercial reports for a determinate remuneration.

I was delegated to formulate a new draft, in accord with this idea; but in to-day's session I did not arrive in time to assist at the meeting of the Committee, and, therefore, have not been able to take part in the resolution of which Mr. Macedo has been made the organ, and in this situation, it seems to me that the best, the most correct attitude for the

Argentine delegation will be that of abstaining from voting.

I do not like to do so, for I am enemy of these abstentions, because I think that one ought to vote yes or no in each case but the special circumstance in which the Argentine delegation finds itself explains for the present my mode of thinking on this matter.

The vote having been taken, the proposition of His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez was rejected, by twelve votes against three, which were cast by Chili, the Dominican Republic and Equador. The delegation from Argentine abstained from voting.

*Secretary Macedo.*—The proposition of His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez having been rejected, discussion will continue on the report of the Committee.

*His Excellency Mr. Carbo, Delegate from Equador and the Dominican Republic.*—I was in favor of the proposition presented by His Excellency Mr. Walker Martinez, in that this matter pass to the Bureau of American Republics presided over by the Secretary of State of the United States, by reason of the fact that said Bureau would be in a better position to resolve upon said question; but I ought to declare that I am also and always will be in favor of the Museum of Philadelphia as an institution of great importance for America,

The final resolution of the Committee I find to be good in major portion, and only ask to be permitted to add to it a few words, in order to give it a character of greater generalization, in order that it may not be thought, from no point of view, that we favor private interests here. I take the liberty, therefore, to propose that there be added the words «as an institution of public benefit,» after the words «said Museums,» and the word «official» after the words «reports and publications.»

With these two amendments, which I trust the Committee will approve, nobody can censure its resolution.

*His Excellency Mr. Baez, Delegate from Paraguay.*—Having consulted with the other members of the Committee on Commerce and Reciprocity, with regard to the amendment proposed, I would state that we accept it; but as president and member of said Committee, I want to add on my part, some words regarding the conduct observed by it in this matter.

The agencies opposing this recommendation, are mercantile agencies of private character, that make secret investigations of the financial standing and character of each individual, of every merchant, in each country; they are agencies that live by means of the issuance of those secret reports. Undoubtedly they lend services to commerce in this form, for thus many merchants, manufacturers, etc., avoid the discomfort of making investigations on their own account, and of inquiring with regard to the solvency or insolvency of the merchants, whose financial state is known to the commercial agencies.

Thus, then, these agencies are useful to the countries in general; but the Commercial Museums are vested with a distinct character: the Museum of Philadelphia, with which I am not acquainted, but have studied its institutions, is an office or department that ascertains the productions of each country. Thus, for example, a merchant of Europe, of