



Dr. Edwin Grant Dexter, President of Instituto Nacional de Panama.

Main Building of Instituto, Already Available for Proposed Pan American University.

Guillermo Andrade, Minister of Public Instruction of Panama.

Pan American University Planned for Panama

New Bond Between North and South America Outlined by Dr. Edwin Grant Dexter—Twenty-one Republics Are Interested

PAN AMERICAN trade is good, something well worth developing. More intimate, sympathetic political relations between the republics of North America and South America are also greatly to be desired; but isn't there something else needed, something that might prove to be a lasting and sure underlying basis for both the trade and the diplomacy—a better understanding between the peoples of the two continents as human beings? An appreciation north of the Isthmus of the traditions and culture to the south of it, an awakening to the fact that there are many things other than trade and diplomacy that all the republics of the Western Hemisphere have a common interest in, and a corresponding getting away from the notion that there cannot be the same sort of minds and souls on both sides of the equator?

The glimmering of such idea is noticeable now and then at long intervals, breaking through the mass of oratory on trade and Pan American politics and conflicting interpretations of the Monroe Doctrine.

"Oh, yes," says a man from the Argentine, in answer to a question from a North American. "We have a system of public education in our country. It was founded by Sarmiento, a friend of your Horace Mann. He established the first normal school in the Argentine, in 1841, two years after the first normal school was opened in the United States. Our school was modeled on yours."

And the man from Chile will tell you of the writers in his country. And the man from another South American republic will tell you that the schoolchildren in his country all know Longfellow's "Psalm of Life"; and so on, throughout the Southern Continent, a thousand and one little things of that sort that are symbolic of what might be made a very vital bond between the two continents.

Now comes Dr. Edwin Grant Dexter, President of the Instituto Nacional de Panama, with a tangible suggestion and plan for the doing of this very thing. He would establish a point of academic, cultural contact between the two continents by means of a Pan American University at Panama, the middle place of the hemisphere, a rallying point for fellowship and a common endeavor for the welfare of all the twenty-one republics, both North and South.

Such a university already has been authorized by the Republic of Panama, seven acres of land bordering on the United States Canal Zone are immediately available for the purpose, a million dollars' worth of school buildings and dormitories already in operation as the

property of the Instituto Nacional de Panama will be placed at the temporary disposal of the new university as soon as it is needed, and Dr. Dexter, who has been President of the Instituto Nacional for five years, is now in the United States, authorized by President Valdez of the Panama Republic and by Guillermo Andrade, the Minister of Public Instruction, to explain the project to the United States Government and to individuals and associations interested in both education and international good will.

Dr. Dexter has been an educator since his graduation from Brown University in 1891. His last continental post in the United States was that of Dean of the University of Illinois, which he resigned in 1907 to become the United States Commissioner of Education in Porto Rico. In the course of his five years there in a triple capacity as the Government's Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of the University of Porto Rico and a member of the Porto Rican Executive Council, Dr. Dexter first conceived the idea that Pan Americanism needed something besides trade and diplomacy to make it thrive.

He tried to realize that dream in his Porto Rican University by making of it an international institution of learning at which students from all the American republics could find something worth going there for. But Porto Rico was too far out of the beaten track between the two continents. It was not common ground.

When he received the offer of the Presidency of the Instituto Nacional de Panama he accepted it principally because he hoped that the Isthmus republic was the place in which his dream of a Pan American University might be realized. And so it has proved, at least to the extent of seven acres of land, a million dollars' worth of modern buildings erected for educational purposes, and the granting of the charter for the desired international university by the mid-way republic in which it will be situated.

But except for location, it is not to be an institution of Panama any more than of the United States or Cuba or Chile or Brazil or any other nation of the western half of the world. All of these nations are to be represented on the Board of Trustees and have an active share in the work of the university.

"The benefits of such a university so far as its being a bond between the two continents," said Dr. Dexter the other day, at his New York headquarters at the Hotel Beresford, "seem to me to be obvious. We would have here a student body of young men from all the twenty-one American republics living and work-

ing together, doing and enjoying things in common for a long enough period to carry back to their several countries their friendships and impressions, which will serve as a tie to other countries. Let this thing continue for a generation and the words Pan American will acquire an entirely new meaning.

"But such a university would also be a real academic asset for the students of both continents.

"I can conceive of no better place for a great school of engineering, such as we expect to have in the Pan American University, than on the border of the Zone, where all apparatus, electrical and mechanical, of the Canal and its tremendous repair shops, the biggest in the world, would be available for students.

"For the school of medicine the facilities will be as great, especially for those who want to know, first hand, all there is to be known about tropical diseases. We have three great, modern hospitals in Panama that would be open for student work. International law would thrive in the international and historical atmosphere of the place, and we hope and plan to have a library so rich in Americana, meaning Americana South as well as North, that no scholar of either continent will be able to say that he has done everything that could be done in research work concerning this hemisphere without first coming to the Pan American University.

"Our College of Agriculture is another department upon which we base considerable hope of being a real factor in the development of the various republics, especially those of South America, where there is much to be learned as to the best methods of plant production.

"Diplomatic representatives of European nations will be invited to cooperate, and their Governments will have the privilege of establishing chairs covering the language, literature, and history of those countries. This, of course, will add materially to the international and cosmopolitan spirit and atmosphere of the university."

Among the organizations in this country, aside from the Government at Washington, to which Dr. Dexter will explain the matter are the American Institute of International Law, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The charter of the Pan American University provides for such vital matters as academic freedom of the Faculty, and for the safeguarding against diversion of gifts or endowments from the purposes

intended by the donors. Extracts from this charter are:

Article 2. This university shall be open to all the inhabitants of America, under the conditions hereinbelow stated or which may hereafter be prescribed by the Governors of the institution.

Art. 3. The Pan American University shall, as soon as the necessary departments may be established, afford to the inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere the means of acquiring substantial knowledge of literature, science, pedagogy, history, and other branches pertaining to higher instruction, and also in the professions of medicine and surgery, law, pharmacy, engineering and whatever others may be subsequently determined upon by the Governors of the institution.

Art. 4. The administration of the university shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, composed of the Secretary of Public Instruction of Panama, and of the diplomatic representatives of the American republics resident in the republic.

The diplomatic representatives of countries other than American maintaining chairs in the university shall also form part of the said board. Instead of the diplomatic representatives any other persons designated for the purpose by their Governments and provided with the proper credentials may have the representation here indicated. Any organization or society which shall maintain a chair or faculty in the university or make a donation of at least \$50,000 thereto shall also be entitled to send a representative to the board.

Art. 5. The Pan American University shall have all the rights of lawful associations and may celebrate contracts, use a seal, own movable or immovable property, &c., but the Board of Trustees may not sell nor alienate any property belonging to the university, to persons, Governments, or corporations of any kind without having obtained the previous approval of the Government which made the donation of that property or contributed to its acquisition, or in cases where the gift was made by individuals, societies, or corporations, without the consent of the said individuals or their heirs, or of the endowing or contributing society or corporation.

Art. 10. The Board of Trustees shall be empowered to appoint all members of the management and Faculty of the University and fix their salaries. However, no member of the Faculty shall be appointed but on the recommendation of the Rector, nor shall any such be removed without hearing his opinion, save in cases where removal is due to the commission of acts prejudicial to the good name of the institution.

Art. 11. The immediate governance of the internal affairs of the university shall be vested in a Rector and the respective deans of the Faculties of professional instruction. The Rector, who must be a citizen of one of the American republics, shall be Chairman of the Faculties and the executive authority of the university in all its departments, though under the control of the Board of Trustees, in which he shall have a voice but no vote.

Art. 13. The staff of instructors of the university shall be equal to the needs of the Faculties that may be established. Each Faculty shall have a dean, who in the judgment of the Board of Trustees may in some cases be the Rector, or any person who may be able to perform the functions of dean as well as those of member of a Faculty.

The Faculties are as follows: Literature and Art, Science and Engineering, Medicine and Surgery, Law and Political Science, Pharmacy, and Agriculture.