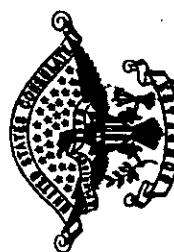


A.W.T. PAPERS Jul-Dec 1899

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013



The Honorable  
Horace Porter,  
U. S. Ambassador,  
PARIS.

July 7th 1899.

Sir:

I enclose to you a copy of a final report I am sending by the same mail to the Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.

A preliminary report in this matter was made to you on the 22nd day of April last, to which you replied on the 25th, directing me to continue my efforts to obtain a peaceful solution of the matter with the local authorities. At that time a very conciliatory private letter had just been received from M. Calve, the President of the Tribunal Civil of Bordeaux, an extract from which you will find attached to the report marked . I had then no doubt but I would succeed. Later developments show that I was absurdly sanguine as will appear from the subsequent proceedings.

An inquest held by the Procureur of the Republic, it seems has resulted in taking issue with my allegations as to the words of the officers at the time of making forcible entry into my dwelling. Of course I can have no controversy with such people. The conversation between me and the Commissary and his posse at the door occupied some 10 or 15 minutes. I had the treaty in my hand explaining and appealing to its provisions. My daughter stood beside me in the doorway being, as was natural, very anxious about the effect of such a demonstration on my health, which for more than a year had been something more than precarious. The flag hung down almost touching the heads of the parties on the steps before me. A good deal was said by various members of the party. My daughter's recollection fully concurred with mine in regard to the two expressions which I cited. Indeed, it is hardly possible that an entrance should have been forced under such circumstances without the use of words of similar significance.

As to the examination of books and papers, please see the report. I have never contended that they read them. None of these people was familiar with English. They simply pawed them over..

I send this report to you because I am out of the matter. The case has been discontinued by the plaintiff and I am no longer a party. The facts remain:

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299

x

1--The treaty-rights of the United States have been deliberately, grossly and publicly violated both by the judicial and executive officers.

2--Of these acts no denial is possible for they appear on the face of the writ and in the procès-verbal or return of the same. The only things denied are at best, but mere incidents.

Whether it is worth while to pursue the matter farther is not for me to determine, but I may be permitted to suggest that the American residents at Arcachon would feel much more security from the impositions they now suffer, if they knew that the authorities were required to make amende of some sort for so open and gross a violation of the treaty. Perhaps my experience may be exceptional, but I have found the American residents of this region inclined to put little reliance in the inclination of their government to assert and protect their rights, in comparison with the English and German --especially the latter. I think an apology for these acts would prove very beneficial in this respect.

I am, sir,

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

*Abbott Bourgee*

U.S. Consul, Bordeaux.

U. S. Consul at Bordeaux.