

THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

The American Political Science Association was organized at New Orleans, December 30, 1903, at the time of the annual meeting of the American Economic and Historical Associations. Prominent men from various sections of the country were in attendance at these meetings and took part in the organization of the new society. It is the result of a movement that was begun more than a year ago. On December 30, 1902, there was held at Washington, D. C., a meeting called for the purpose of considering the advisability of organizing an association for the promotion of the study of comparative legislation. During the discussion that occurred at this meeting it was suggested that a society ought to be formed which should do for the entire field of Political Science a work similar to that of the American Economic and Historical Associations. The opinion was expressed that the proposed society should not confine its efforts to the field of comparative legislation, but should include within its sphere the subjects of politics, jurisprudence, administration, diplomacy, and the other departments which properly belong to the general subject of Political Science. As a result of the discussion, a committee of fifteen was appointed to ascertain, through correspondence, the demand that existed for the proposed society. Communication was had with many eminent lawyers, statesmen, and political scientists; and it soon became apparent that

among those most directly interested in Political Science, there was an almost unanimous demand for a society to represent their intellectual interests. The committee, therefore, issued a call for a meeting at New Orleans at which their report would be made and some definite action might be taken. This meeting was held on December 30. A constitution was adopted, officers were elected,¹ and plans were formulated for the work of the society.

The purpose of the American Political Science Association is to promote the scientific study of the great problems of Political Science. This purpose is to be accomplished, to quote from the circular letter from the secretary of the association, "by bringing into closer personal contact those interested in this general field of thought, by encouraging research, by furnishing at its annual meetings opportunities for discussion, by aiding—to the extent of its financial ability—in the collection of valuable material, and by the publication of important papers." It is the hope and purpose of the association to interest not only those engaged in

¹ The following officers were elected for the first year:

President, F. J. Goodnow, Professor of Administrative Law, Columbia University; First Vice President, —————; Second Vice President, Paul S. Reinsch, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin; Third Vice President, Hon. Simeon E. Baldwin, of New Haven, Conn.; Secretary and Treasurer, W. W. Willoughby, Associate Professor of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University.

Associated with these in the government of the Association were elected the following members of the Executive Council:

Hon. Andrew D. White, former Ambassador to Germany; Jesse Macy, Professor of Political Science, Iowa College; H. P. Judson, Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago; L. S. Rowe, Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Albert Shaw, Editor *Review of Reviews*; Bernard Moses, Professor of Political Science, University of California; J. A. Fairlie, Professor of Administrative Law, University of Michigan; W. A. Schaper, Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota; and H. E. Hubrich, Professor of Political Science in the University of Texas.

academic work, but also the statesman, the jurist, the administrator, and the publicist, and to secure the coöperation of all these forces in the scientific study and discussion of the many important questions in practical and theoretical politics.

Special attention will be given at the annual meetings to the discussion of the papers presented, as in the experience of everyone the interchange of thought and the direct contact of mind with mind on such occasions is most interesting and profitable. It is intended that the members shall have the greatest possible freedom in the expression of their opinions, but the society itself will in no way take sides in any political controversy. The example of the American Economic Association will be followed in this respect. The meeting will usually be held at the time and place of those of the two older associations, and thus opportunity will be given the members of the different societies to attend all the meetings without additional expense in time and money.

In order to secure the best results, the work of the association was organized into a number of departments, each of which is in charge of a special committee. There are seven of these departments, as follows: (1) Comparative Legislation. In this department investigations will be made into the methods used in this country and abroad in efforts to solve economic and social questions through legislation. (2) Comparative and Historical Jurisprudence. (3) Constitutional Law. (4) International Law and Diplomacy. (5) Political Theory. (6) Administration—dealing with the methods by which the business of the government is carried on. (7) Politics. In this department will be studied ques-

tions of political dynamics, such as the philosophy and methods of parties, the choosing of political leaders, the influence of public opinion, and similar questions.

It will be seen from this outline that the field mapped out for the association's work is a very rich one, and it may be confidently expected that many thorough-going and scientific investigations of great permanent value will result from this new national society. It is also planned to institute coöperative undertakings in fields of work such as comparative legislation, where individual effort is inadequate on account of the mass of material to be digested before any scientific generalizations can be arrived at. The preparation of a coöperative encyclopedia of Political Science would also seem to fall fairly within the field of the new association. The constitution of the American Political Science Association complete is as follows:

ARTICLE I—NAME

This Association shall be known as the American Political Science Association.

ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The encouragement of the scientific study of Politics, Public Law, Administration, and Diplomacy.

The Association as such will not assume a partisan position upon any question of practical politics, nor commit its members to any position thereupon.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

Any person may become a member of this Association upon payment of Three Dollars, and after the first year may continue such by paying an annual fee of Three Dollars. By a single payment of Fifty Dollars any person may become a life member, exempt from annual dues.

Each member will be entitled to a copy of all the publications of the Association issued during his or her membership.

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ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and of an Executive Council consisting ex-officio of the officers above mentioned and ten elected members, whose term of office shall be two years, except that of those selected at the first election, five shall serve for but one year.

All officers shall be nominated by a Nomination Committee composed of five members appointed by the Executive Council, except that the officers for the first year shall be nominated by a committee of three to be appointed by the chairman of the meeting at which this Constitution is adopted.

All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Association present at the meeting at which the elections are had.

ARTICLE V—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Council, and shall perform such other duties as the Executive Council may assign to him. In his absence his duties shall devolve successively upon the Vice-Presidents in the order of their election, upon the Secretary and the Treasurer.

The Secretary shall keep the records of the Association and perform such other duties as the Executive Council may assign to him.

The Treasurer shall receive and have the custody of the funds of the Association, subject to the rules of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council shall have charge of the general interests of the Association, shall call regular and special meetings of the Association, appropriate money, appoint Committees and their chairmen, with appropriate powers, and in general possess the governing power in the Association, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Constitution. The Executive Council shall have the power to fill vacancies in its membership occasioned by death, resignation or failure to elect, such appointees to hold office until the next annual election of officers.

Five members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Council, and a majority vote of those in attendance shall control its decisions.

Ten members shall constitute a quorum of the Association, and a majority vote of those members in attendance shall control its decisions.

ARTICLE VI—RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions to which an objection shall be made shall be referred to the Executive Council for its approval before submission to the vote of the Association.

ARTICLE VII—AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed by the Executive Council and adopted by a majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Association.

A society organized on such broad lines cannot but exert a marked and wholesome influence upon American life. The study of the political relations of the United States is of prime importance, and any society or movement which will promote the better understanding of the obligations resting upon our citizenship, must of necessity occupy a prominent place among the many associations that exist to-day. Especially in the field of academic work will the influence of the new organization be felt. The study of Politics will be given a greater dignity and a greater independence of the allied subjects of History and Economics. A gradual rearrangement and enlargement of the courses in Politics in the colleges and universities will undoubtedly result, and much of this desirable growth will be traceable to the increased interest in these subjects that has sprung up as a result of the work of the American Political Science Association. On the other hand, both History and Economics will gain from a clearer emphasis of the political and juristic

point of view. Just as the individual natural sciences profit by the progress of one another, so does the progress and efficient development of the social sciences depend upon a clear distinction between the various points of view and a careful and patient working out of each separate science.

Greater impetus will be given to investigations in the rich field of American politics. The scientific study of this important subject has only begun; and the new association will do much to bring before the attention of the world the experience of the United States in her attempts to solve the problems of government and of society. Large results may also be expected from the new association in the study of present day politics—local, national, and international. Never before in the history of the world has diplomacy occupied so commanding a position as at the present time. The problems of administration are becoming increasingly important and more difficult of solution. The organization of parties and the questions arising from party government are being forced more and more upon the attention of students of politics. The question of governmental interference in industrial affairs is constantly in the foreground. The need of a keener and more vital interest in local government is becoming more clearly understood. In short, problems in every branch of governmental activity are pressing for solution. In the study and discussion which are so essential to a right understanding of these difficult questions, an important part will be borne by the American Political Science Association.

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