
BY HERBERT FEIS

HAV'Y often heard observant students come out with the proposition that qualities make the superior diplomat. None ever thought it really knew, or that there was one magic prescription. This was because the art was mysterious or its ways secret. It was because the art consisted of the circumstances and turns of history affecting the performance in impossible. How different both in nature and in their ways, for example, were three of the most able foreign service diplomats I ever saw at work:

Joseph Caffery, short-sporadic, manipulative, sel Hart in his foreign contacts, never confiding; a representative of the school of which we could always tell the Department of State and the President everything. Nobody knew to what end he gathered the one hundred words at most, at times "of his own choosing. But he did well with his every assignment in the field.

George Messersmith, schoolmasterly, patient, of solid, missional convictions. His talk and his long, crammed reports would have been a bore had they not been so thoroughly expressed. Yet he too managed to advance the cause of his country more effectively than most, and to enlist the support of his governing colleagues in Washington more steadfastly than most.

There reflections have been formed to be read by the world of diplomacy and diplomats. With lively anecdote and bright comment he illuminates the history and nature of this difficult art, the tasks and traits of its practitioners, diplomatic and consular practice, intelligence work, and life in the American foreign service. The author writes from many years of experience as a career diplomat, having resigned from the Foreign Service in 1933. Throughout the book his perception and wit serve good measure. Generous to a fault, he does not miss a chance to influence policy. Not always, but as often as he was able, Mr. Thayer tried to influence policy. Not always, but as often as he was able, Mr. Thayer tried to advance the cause of his country the admiration and respect of others, he will not essay his inordinate desire.

On the roisterous early activities of the Office of Strategic Services: "The objector, L. S. neophytes from O. S. S. were not that say's being immoral or undiplomatic but that successful espionage is for experts not in Central Asian archeology or history but in espionage."

Were Mr. Thayer writing of the "Conquest of a Foreign Field," he would have been a bore had he not managed to advance the cause of his country the admiration and respect of others, he will not essay his inordinate desire.

A chapter that particularly recommends itself tells of the vicissitudes of the permanent representatives to the League of Nations for the first thirty years. This is just and well informed. It is appreciative of a change of views. It appears that most all its members performed, save one, well. The reason of the mistrust and frustration they have had to endure at times, without being well informed. It is not likely the value of some persons in the outside life who have been given the inside view without having undergone the rigorous of experience, even of a few whose appointments were made for domestic political support.

Just Friends

Representation is the term used to describe a diplomat's efforts to demonstrate through his personality, manners, hospitality and caution the admirable qualities of his country and thus the advantage of maintaining close friendly relations with it. While the wise diplomat seeks to win for his country the admiration and respect of others, he will not essay his inordinate desire."

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With similar individuality of budget, the author discusses the reasons why it is often hard to turn a lawyer into a good diplomat. And the reasons for doubting whether experts in educational organization are qualified to give guidance in the always trying question of how to improve the diplomatic service. In this function the recommendations: "Both in its composition and in its recommendations the Wriston committees provide evidence of a less than complete comity and understanding of the true role of diplomacy."

Mr. Thayer does not—his method and admirers of the professional service maintain that negotiations conducted confidentially between kindred members of kindred foreign service organizations is always to be dealt with an international situation. It may be, when heads of government and Secretaries of State are willing to confer the needed political authority to such agents: it is the least perilous mode of diplomacy.

He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. He recognizes that the personal diplomacy of Secretaries of State may at times be necessary and that it can be possible in more ordinary ways and that conference diplomacy can be possible. When heads of government and Secretaries of State are willing to confer the needed political authority to such agents: it is the least perilous mode of diplomacy.

On matters such as this, the book is a stimulus to thought and an aid to judgment. It is as well an illuminating manual of the daily tasks and activities of both senior and junior officials in the diplomatic and consular services. Candidates for these services can learn much from it. All who read it will enter the State Department more steadfastly than most.