

VII

Describe concisely a number of examples, by way of illustration, in which the work or the activities of the Diplomatic Service has been of direct benefit to the individual citizen or business man in this country commercially.

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A conspicuous example of the way in which the Diplomatic Service has been of direct benefit to the individual citizen or business men of the United States is the recent case handled by this Legation of an American corporation which had secured a contract for the construction and operation of wireless stations in China. The Danish Legation in Peking (watchful, as may be observed, of the interests of Danish business) lodged a protest with the Chinese Government against this contract as contrary to the provisions of a monopoly granted to a Danish company for the operation of telegraphs in China. The Department of State immediately instructed the Legation in Copenhagen to obtain information as to the grounds upon which this protest had been lodged. Not only were these instructions carried out, but the Department was furthermore supplied with information regarding the Danish company in question and its present and proposed activities. Subsequently through an exchange of notes conducted through this mission the Department of State was able to furnish adequate protection to these American interests and to uphold their contract.

So far as this mission is concerned, the list given under Section V furnished the information called for by

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this question. Innumerable other examples which have arisen in other missions and in other countries in recent years could profitably be adduced, as, for instance, the vigorous diplomatic backing which it became necessary to give to the American oil interests in Roumania, the American potash interests in Germany, the American Vacuum Oil and cotton-seed oil interests in Austria; our protests against certain provisions of the last Mexican constitution; our work in obtaining the removal of American business firms from the blacklists of foreign countries during the war; our representations against the German and Austrian submarine warfare; our representations in prize-court cases. This list could be prolonged indefinitely.