

## THE UNITED STATES - アメリカ政府

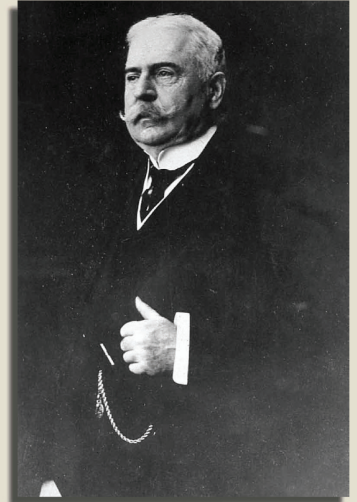
After Japan's defeat of China in 1894, France, Germany and Russia denied the island nation the gains it was promised by the treaty. Japan was determined that no third party would again interfere with their negotiations. By 1905, most European nations were aligned by treaty or inclination with either Russia or Japan. An outside, neutral country was needed to bring the belligerents to the peace table.



*Theodore Roosevelt. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.*

**President Theodore Roosevelt** filled that need. The American President, though privately favoring the Japanese, was concerned with the balance of power in the Far East. Because of Russian expansion and European spheres of influence in China, Roosevelt wanted a neutral China and he feared the war might expand into a larger conflict that would threaten America's interests. Roosevelt's quiet background efforts during the war and the treaty negotiations were critical to reaching peace. Roosevelt handpicked George von Lengerke Meyer as United States Ambassador to Russia. Meyer personally carried Roosevelt's suggestions and messages directly to the Tsar.

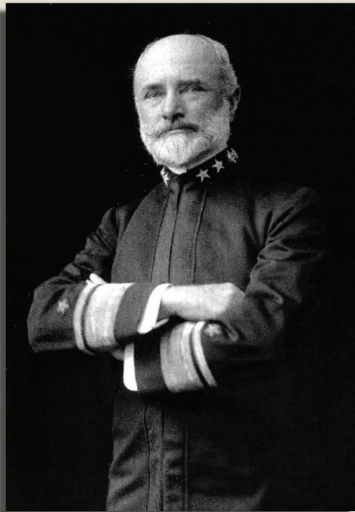
**Herbert H. D. Peirce**, Assistant Secretary of State, represented Roosevelt at the conference and handled the delicate task of protocol. He was also a witness to the treaty signing. Peirce had formerly been posted to St. Petersburg as a member of the U.S. embassy. Both he and his wife, Helen Peirce, apparently spoke Russian. Mrs. Peirce, undoubtedly with the encouragement of the President and state department, enlisted local society to initiate a series of entertainments in honor of the two delegations.



*Herbert H. D. Peirce. Courtesy of Portsmouth Athenaeum.*

## THE PEOPLE OF PORTSMOUTH - ポーツマスの人々

Overlooked in the history of the peace conference is the important role provided by the hosts in New Hampshire and Maine. For thirty days, New Hampshire state officials and the people of Portsmouth and surrounding New Hampshire and Maine communities welcomed the delegates and hundreds of reporters, government officials and other visitors to the conference. At numerous social events the local hosts encouraged the delegates' efforts for peace, especially during the time when formal negotiations were breaking down over apparently irreconcilable issues.



*Rear Admiral William Mead. Courtesy of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.*

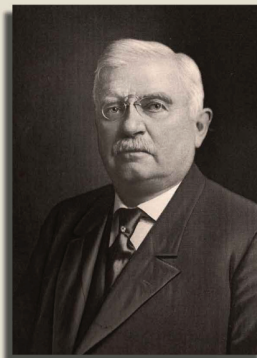
**Rear Admiral William Mead**, commander of the shipyard, had the critical responsibility of hosting the negotiations and insuring the correct protocols extended to both parties. Mead was invited, along with the commanders of the USS Mayflower and the USS Dolphin, to witness the treaty signing.

**New Hampshire Governor John McLane** invited the delegates to meet in New Hampshire, an offer accepted by Roosevelt and approved by Japan and Russia. Throughout the negotiations he participated in many social events for delegates, and he was a witness to the treaty signing.



*William E. Marvin. Courtesy of New Hampshire Historical Society.*

**Portsmouth Mayor William E. Marvin** presided over a hospitable city and was rewarded with a place in the room when the treaty was signed.



*Calvin Page. Courtesy of C. B. Doleac.*



*NH Governor John McLane. Courtesy of State of New Hampshire.*

**Calvin Page**, Portsmouth lawyer, judge, and former mayor, was the trustee of the estate of Frank Jones, owner of the Wentworth Hotel. Page arranged for both delegations to be housed free of charge at the Wentworth.