

MISSION OF SERBIA WELCOMED BY CITY

In Aldermanic Chamber Mayor
Hylan Greets His First
War Visitors.

RODMAN WANAMAKER, HOST

Entertains Party at Luncheon at
Sherry's, and Later They
Visit Grant's Tomb.

The heroic stand of Serbia against the invasion of the Teutonic powers and the future outlook of that oppressed nation were the main themes of the orators at the reception to the Royal Serbian War Mission at the City Hall yesterday. The same idea was the prevailing note at the several other receptions given the distinguished visitors during the day. The mission, consisting of Dr. Milenko Vesnich, Serbian Minister to France; Professor Simo Lozanich, former Serbian Minister to England, and General Michael Rasich and Colonel Michael Nonadovich, arrived from Boston at 8 o'clock in the morning and were met by the Mayor's Reception Committee, headed by Charles B. Alexander.

Accompanying the mission is Albert B. Ruddock, representing the State Department, and Lieutenant Hamilton Fish Armstrong of the United States Army, together with several secretaries. The first function in honor of the visiting mission was a luncheon at Sherry's given to several hundred guests by Rodman Wanamaker, Vice Chairman of the Mayor's Committee. At the express desire of Mr. Wanamaker there were no speeches, but toasts were drunk to King Peter of Serbia and President Wilson. There was great applause when Chairman Alexander proposed the toast to King Peter. Immediately after Dr. Vesnich arose and said:

"And here is to Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, one of the greatest of Serbia's allies." There was prolonged applause. Responding to the toast to King Peter, Job E. Hedges expressed admiration for Serbia "for staking her all in this war and gaining the regard of the whole world." He also referred to Serbia as "the greatest of all the small nations." Among those at the luncheon were Professor Michael Pupin, Abram I. Elkus, ex-Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison, Richard Delafield, Frank A. Munsey, Francis K. Pendleton, Fire Commissioner Drennan, Dr. John H. Finley, Joseph H. Choate, Jr., Theodore P. Shonts, Calvin D. Van

Name, J. Frederick Kernochan, McDougall Hawkes, State Senator Robert F. Wagner, Henry Clews, E. Ellery Anderson, Gaston E. Liebert, the French Consul, and Marcel Knecht of the French Mission.

Following the luncheon the mission was escorted to the City Hall, where the important reception of the day took place. The Aldermanic Chamber was elaborately decorated with American flags and the red, blue, and white flag of Serbia. Military and naval guards of honor were drawn up in the plaza in front of the City Hall. There were about 600 men of the new State Guard in command of Colonel J. Hollis Wells of the 71st Infantry.

When the Mayor appeared he read from a manuscript a short welcome to the visitors. Among other things he said:

"The Serbian people have suffered in this war probably as much as any nation. Their fight for liberty will be recorded in history as one of the most inspiring struggles of a brave people—an illustrious example to all the world. We salute you and, through you, the people of Serbia, who have, by their great struggle, made a place for themselves in the hearts of the American people. That your visit here may serve to cement the bonds of friendship between our respective countries is the wish of the Chief Executive and citizens of the City of New York."

Professor Pupin, the orator of the oc-

casion, was frequently applauded as he referred to the struggles made by Serbia. He said, in part:

"We, citizens of New York, know well the historic struggles of democratic Serbia for the maintenance of her democracy and of her freedom; but her historic patriotic heroism, great as it always was, never rose to greater heights than the sublime ones reached by Serbia in her present struggle. The victories of Cer and of Rudnik will stand forever as glorious examples of heroic patriotism which dares and sacrifices everything at the altar of national honor. By these victories you conquered and destroyed a mighty foe who attacked your national honor, and you never succumbed until a new and treacherous foe stabbed you in the back. Through his treachery Serbia has lost everything except her national honor, but in her material defeat she has found a great spiritual victory; she has conquered the hearts of the world. The memory of American men and women, so dear to you, who sacrificed their lives for your heroic country and who rest in peace in the sacred soil of Serbia, testifies that the hearts of the people of the United States always were, and still are, with you.

Dr. Vesnich, spokesman for the mission, extended his thanks through the Mayor and his committee to the people of the city for their hospitality. He said:

"We come, your Honor, at the end of our mission to the greatest, to the most

prosperous city not only in the United States, but in the world. It is intended to be so because we wished to pay to you a visit, to express to you our thanks at the moment when we soon shall have to leave the shores of this country of democracy and of liberty. We shall tell all our army and all our brothers, our fathers, our mothers, our sisters, and our children, who live in slavery under the yoke of our enemies, how the United States have received their mission, how, beginning with the great leader of your democracy and finishing with the youngest child in your schools, every one cordially and sympathetically has received us."