

British sentiment, already disgusted with the debt collecting alliance with Germany, to a dangerous pitch of hostility to the British ministry, and consequently to have culminated in the utter ignoring of Mr. Bowen by the European representatives. The British minister promptly announced that the alliance would end immediately upon the signing of treaties of arbitration, and that the blockade would be thereupon raised. Whatever the origin and character of the unpleasantness may have been, it is certain that on the 6th the British ambassador communicated directly with Secretary Hay without notifying Mr. Bowen. His communication proposed that President Roosevelt sit in judgment upon the demand of the blockading allies for preferential treatment. Secretary Hay submitted the proposal at once to the President, who, after a cabinet discussion, declined to act. Thereupon, so say the Washington dispatches of the 9th, the allies agreed to leave the question of preferential treatment to The Hague tribunal, and the British ambassador submitted to Mr. Bowen Great Britain's proposed protocol, which Mr. Bowen promptly accepted. Following are the terms of the British protocol, so accepted, as summarized by the Associated Press:

The British protocol provides that the blockade shall be raised; that the dispute over the preferential treatment question shall be referred to The Hague court; that Venezuela shall immediately pay Great Britain \$27,500 in cash; that 30 per cent. of the customs receipts of the ports of La Guayra and Puerto Cabello shall be set aside as a fund to liquidate Venezuela's foreign indebtedness, the scheme of distribution among the creditor nations to be determined by The Hague court; that a British-Venezuelan commission shall adjust the claims of Great Britain against Venezuela and if unable to agree upon the amount due British subjects the ruler of a European country shall be asked to serve as umpire; that if Venezuela fails to begin the payment of British claims agreed upon within a fixed period the government of Belgium shall appoint commissions to administer the customs at La Guayra and Puerto Cabello, and that new treaties of amity, commerce, and navigation shall be negotiated between Great Britain and Venezuela.

Italy has agreed to similar terms, but Germany holds out for better. According to the Washington dispatches of the 11th she has made a demand for a cash payment of \$340,-

000, accompanied by an offer to accept in lieu thereof the exclusive possession of a Venezuelan port indefinitely. This is regarded as a disclosure of the German emperor's supreme desire to get a foothold on Venezuelan territory, it being suspected that he supposed Venezuela would be unable to raise so large a sum and would gladly compromise upon the surrender of a port. Mr. Bowen promptly declined the offer, notifying the German ambassador that rather than consider it for an instant Venezuela would pay the whole demand of \$340,000 in cash.

The only other news of the week bearing upon this subject has to do with the revolution, which President Castro appears to be holding in check in spite of the encouragement it has received from the European blockade. On the 9th his minister of war, Gen. Ferrer, captured Guatire from the revolutionists and was marching to the relief of Rio Chico, about 50 miles from Caracas.

But little regarding the revolution in Honduras (p. 695) can be added to last week's report. It has since been explained from Managua, Nicaragua, that the election of Gen. Bonilla to the presidency having failed of confirmation by the Hondurian congress, President Sierra placed the administration of the government in the hands of the cabinet, and accepted from them a commission as commander-in-chief of the military forces to resist the insurrection which Gen. Bonilla began on the 1st by proclaiming himself provisional president. The island of Amapala, which lies in the Pacific bay of Fonseca, about three days' journey from Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, is the only part of the country of which Bonilla has secured possession, and the government has decreed that this island be blockaded.

Pursuant to the naval orders reported last week (p. 695). Rear Admiral Glass, of Rear Admiral Casey's Pacific fleet, left his station at San Francisco on the 10th with the New York, the Boston, the Marblehead and the Ranger, all the ships in his squadron, bound for Honduras.

Other considerations than an insurrection in Honduras have doubtless caused the sending of this large American squadron to that region. It is highly probable that all the Central American states will soon be em-

broiled in war. This has been expected for some time, and on the 10th it was reported from Guatamala that war had been proclaimed between that country on one side and Salvador and Honduras on the other. Although this report lacks confirmation it is well known that the Guatemala government sympathizes with Bonilla, the insurrection leader in Honduras, and it is suspected that Costa Rica will follow Guatemala's lead. Salvador and Nicaragua on the other hand are believed to be acting in conjunction with the hold-over government of Honduras. These complications are said to have grown out of the efforts of the presidents of Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras to establish a federated republic of Central American states. The scheme was considered at a conference of the Central American republics held at Corinto, Nicaragua, last year, where it was opposed by Guatemala.

The possibility of another war between republics to the south of us, a war between Bolivia and Brazil, is averted by the dominance of Brazil, which has delivered an ultimatum that Bolivia accepts. The dispute was over the course of a boundary line which determines the sovereignty over the rich rubber territory known as the Acre country. Vague reports of this dispute have come northward at intervals for several years, until they indicated late last year (p. 599) that war between Bolivia and Brazil was imminent.

The Acre country comprises 80,000 square miles. Its resources for rubber production are said to have been discovered by the celebrated mountain climber, Sir Martin Conway, an Englishman, who procured from Bolivia a grant of the land, with vast powers of government, in which American capitalists are now deeply interested. The region is described as lying far inland, 2,500 miles or more from the mouth of the Amazon, a wild section of South America, untraversed by any railroad, without telegraph lines, and a three weeks' journey by the uncertain river boats from Para. It is watered by three great tributaries of the Amazon—the Javary, Jurua and Purus—and their affluents, deriving its name from one of the latter, the river "Aquiry" or "Acre." It is bounded on the north and east by the Brazilian States of Amazonas and Matto Grosso, on the south by Bolivia and on the west by Peru. When the original boundary

treaty between Brazil and Bolivia was signed, in 1867, the population consisted entirely of nomadic and hostile Indians, and the dangers of exploration were augmented by the prevalence of fevers and reptiles and insects of the most deadly description. Not until the rubber industry at Manaos and Para became of value and the prospectors pushed westward into the wilderness to locate new lands suitable for this tree did the district receive special attention. It had been in undisputed possession of Brazil, and only in 1894 did both countries realize the necessity for a more definite boundary line at this point. In 1895 a joint commission of the two governments agreed to adopt a provisional line running from the point at latitude 7 degrees 1 minute 17 seconds south of the equator, on the Javary river, agreed on by the treaty of 1874, to the junction of the rivers Beni and Guapore with the Madeira river. This survey did not receive the final approval of the Brazilian government, the minister for foreign affairs objecting that the only just way to decide the frontier was by determining the true source of the Javary as stipulated in the first treaty. A further examination under the direction of the Brazilian commission fixed the head-waters of the Javary three degrees north of the earlier suppositions. This would result in an additional loss of territory to Brazil, and, as Bolivia did not cooperate in the expedition, a protocol was signed stipulating that a mixed commission be appointed to investigate the disputed question more thoroughly. The original treaty fixed the starting point of the boundary line on the left bank of the Madeira river at its juncture with the Beni, thence along parallel 10 degrees 20 minutes south to meet the Javary. If the source of the terminal river should be north of the east and west line, the treaty stipulated that the boundary should follow in a straight line until meeting the source of the Javary. As there is no misunderstanding regarding the starting point at the confluence of the Beni and Madeira rivers, the whole question rests on the clause stating that if the source of the Javary should prove to be north of the parallel 10 degrees 20 minutes south the frontier should follow from the parallel in a straight line to meet the main source of the Javary. Whether this line should start from the initial point at the juncture of the Beni and Madeira and run diagonally to the source of the Javary,

as maintained by Bolivia, or should extend west to the intersection of the Brazilian and Peruvian boundaries and thence northwest to the source of the Javary, as claimed by Brazil, is the mooted point. The Brazilian government claims that it was the intention of the original treaty to make the parallel 10 degrees 20 minutes the boundary line as far as possible, and from its termination, in Brazilian territory, should the true source of the Javary be farther north, straight from the intersection to the river's headwaters.

Along the frontier as claimed by Bolivia, the government of that country established forts and sent troops to support their custom houses in the collection of export tariffs on rubber. Against these reactions the Brazilians engaged in rubber raising there rose in rebellion; and they met with such success that on the 24th of last month, under Placido Castro, they captured Porto Acre, the last point in the Acre territory on which the Bolivian troops held out against them. So, at any rate, says the Brazilian minister to the United States, who made this further statement in an interview on the 8th:

Castro has been proclaimed governor by the victorious revolutionists and is ready to acknowledge Brazilian authority, I am advised. With the fall of Porto Acre there are no Bolivians left in the whole territory, and 300 Bolivian prisoners, including Governor Romero and Colonels Conseco and Ibanez, the latter two wounded, have been sent by the revolutionists to the Brazilian city of Manaos, capital of the state of Amazonas.

In consequence of the success of this revolution, which Brazil had evidently fostered, her government sent an ultimatum to Bolivia early in February. It was in effect a notice that if Bolivia should attempt to re-occupy the disputed territory, Brazil would pacify and administer it by military force until a settlement of the whole dispute had been reached. Bolivia thereupon agreed to Brazilian military occupation and administration of all the disputed country to the west of the Yaco river, at the same time advising Brazil that she was sending to Rio Janeiro a minister specially authorized to negotiate a satisfactory agreement, or failing that to arrange for arbitration.

The only news of the week from the civil war in Morocco (p. 695) re-

ports another bloody battle. This discredits the previous report of the annihilation of the revolutionary army, for not only was it severe, but it was fought up to the very gates of Fez; where, however, the rebels were driven back. The report came from Tangier on the 5th, and is as yet unconfirmed.

Still following the flight of the sanguinary angel of war, we are taken to the Balkans, whence come ugly rumors of the mobilization of troops by Turkey, Austria and Russia, and report of a probable Macedonian uprising. But these exciting reports, apparently inspired by European state departments, seem less to forebode a Balkan war than some secret movement of the continental powers for which rumors of Balkan difficulties are a mask.

In the Philippines there are evidences of a continuance of resistance to the American occupation. According to Associated Press reports from Manila, a force of 100 constabulary under Inspector Keith defeated a body of 200 insurgents on Sunday, the 8th, near Mariquina, a small town seven miles from Manila. This victory of the armed American constabulary followed a severe engagement in which Inspector Harris and one man of the constabulary were killed and two other men of the constabulary wounded. The Filipinos left 15 dead and 3 wounded. Their little army formed the main force of Gen. San Miguel, who claims that he succeeded to the command of the Filipino forces when the other generals surrendered. His headquarters were captured, and, after seizure of his records, were burned. This dispatch of the following day from the same source, which cautiously phrased, is significant of a more irreconcilable condition in the Philippines than previous reports have indicated:

The government is preparing to round up the disorderly elements in the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal, where the constabulary will be reinforced by several companies of native scouts. The rumors from the disaffected provinces are believed to exaggerate the number of hostiles, of whom it is said there are 2,000 in the field. More trustworthy reports say there are not over 500 natives under arms, and that the bulk of these scattered after Sunday's fight. There is little doubt that the hostiles will speedily be suppressed.