

press to have been made by John J. Sonstebly, one of the school board, as chairman of an investigating committee of the board, appointed at his request. After a searching investigation Mr. Sonstebly's committee, aided by John A. Guilford, the business manager of the board, adopted a report on the 12th from which the following, as stated in the press, is quoted:

Of the 120 text-books used in Chicago 62 are being sold elsewhere at prices lower than the Chicago figure. On four of these the difference in price per copy is more than 50 cents. On eleven others the difference is more than 30 cents. Rate discrimination in the last five years has cost Chicago school children nearly \$200,000 annually.

The figures tabulated were received from 80 cities of more than 50,000 population and from State school authorities in 39 States and Territories. The samples of books certified by school officials throughout the country, were referred to the board of district superintendents to report upon their differences, if any, from the corresponding books supplied to Chicago.

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International Combination Against Castro.

Recent events indicate very strongly that the revolution against President Castro of Venezuela (pp. 13, 38, 175, 229) which, in Castro's absence in Europe for a surgical operation, placed the acting President, Vice President Gomez, in the position of President of a reorganized government, was accomplished under the influence of American interests. This suspicion has been engendered by the action of the American government in reference to Castro's return from abroad.

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Castro had sailed from France on board the Guadeloupe (p. 276), when Associated Press dispatches of the 6th from Trinidad circulated the following report:

At the urgent request of the State Department at Washington, communicated to the London foreign office, the British government has decided not to permit Cipriano Castro, former President of Venezuela, to land at Trinidad.

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It was explained in connection with these dispatches that Castro's original intention had been to land in Venezuela, but that the Gomez government, after first forbidding his landing, had subsequently withdrawn its refusal but with an intimation that he could land only at his own peril. The reason for the interposition of the United States government is not explained, except by unofficial statements that Castro is a "pirate"; but it is understood that the action of the British government was solely as a matter of favor to the United States. Having been prevented by the British government from landing at Trinidad,

Castro went on with the Guadeloupe to Fort de France, Martinique, where he landed on the 7th, his vessel having been followed into port by the United States cruiser Montana.

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This French port was the only West Indian territory open to him, the United States having secured the cooperation not only of Great Britain but of all other interests in the West Indies, both American and European, except France. But the intervention of France was promptly secured, and on the 8th a decree of expulsion from Martinique was issued against Castro. It had evidently been secured by the United States through the French ambassador at Washington. Refusing to obey the French decree, Castro was taken by force from a sick bed (the surgical wound having opened and begun to suppurate) and carried upon a stretcher on board the Versailles, which sailed on the 10th.

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Castro has given out the following protest to the French government against his expulsion:

I hereby protest against the action of the French authorities of Martinique in having me put by force on board an outgoing vessel. First, because I was ill at the time, and because the act imperiled my life; second, because I have committed no offense against the government of France and the authorities of Martinique during the time that I was permitted to remain on that island; and, finally, because the decree of expulsion which orders my deportation out of French territory, compels me to take passage aboard a vessel which will again land me on French territory. Moreover, these considerations aside, the case constitutes a breach of international law and a denial of the rights of individuals. That such a thing should have come to pass in the land which saw the birth of Josephine and from which came the inspiration and presage of liberty, and at the hands of a people who shed their blood by torrents hardly a century ago to maintain unimpaired the rights and prerogatives of man, is inconceivable.

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The Versailles, escorted by the United States cruisers North Carolina and Montana, entered the port of Point-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, on the 12th, with Castro on board. He made no attempt to land, but was still on board when the vessel sailed for France on the same day. He stated that he considered himself a prisoner of the French government, which paid his passage money, he having refused to do so. He was confined to his berth from his illness. His fortune, he said, had been reduced to a few hundred dollars. The Venezuelan government has forbidden his wife entrance to land from the Guadeloupe on Venezuelan soil.

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All men are originally in a common collective possession of the soil of the whole earth.—Kant.