

United States appear to have entered into diplomatic conferences with Great Britain and Germany relative to the South American republic of Venezuela. Although nothing more definite about the termination of the civil war in Venezuela has been reported than what we produced last month (p. 503), the dispatches indicate that the opposition to President Castro has been subdued, although some unimportant conflicts with small bands of insurgents are still reported. But a new danger has loomed up which may even revive the insurrection. The country is threatened with invasion by Great Britain and Germany. The latter has long menaced Venezuela. Upon the basis of a Venezuelan railroad loan held by German subjects (vol. iv, p. 601-2), it has threatened to collect the debt by forcibly taking possession of Venezuelan custom houses. Great Britain has since been drawn into an agreement with Germany for the ostensible purpose of collecting similar British claims and protecting European interests in Venezuela. This agreement was divulged in London on the 22d of November. It was at the same time reported, also from London, that the British government had received assurances that the United States would not interfere so long as the Monroe doctrine, which denies the right of European powers to acquire territory on this side of the Atlantic, was not defied. Both powers are represented by war ships in the Caribbean sea, and Admiral Dewey has gone to the Caribbean to take command of the large American fleet now in those waters nominally for practice maneuvers. It has been indicated by Great Britain and Germany to present to Venezuela a joint ultimatum, but on the 1st Berlin reports were to the effect that President Castro had signed an agreement acknowledging part of the German claims and that the proposed ultimatum had consequently been postponed. Then there were rumors from Washington that negotiations through the Seligman banking house were on foot for an issue of Venezuelan bonds, to be guaranteed by the United States, out of the proceeds of which the German and British claims might be satisfied. Since these rumors, however, it is reported from Washington that the two European powers are to make a joint naval demonstration at once. It is intimated that both have given assurances to the American government that

their purpose is to serve an ultimatum on President Castro demanding the payment of the obligations due the complaining commercial companies, and, if that fails, to establish a peaceful blockade of the principal Venezuelan ports, probably Puerto Cabello and La Guayra, and, if that fails, to seize custom houses and collect duties to the extent of the debt. To this purpose the government at Washington is understood to make no objection.

Great Britain's Irish difficulties (pp. 455-6, 487, 502) are apparently in process of satisfactory, even if only temporary, settlement. To that end, many of the landlords themselves are in conference with the tenants, though a large landlord faction opposes the movement. A convention of Irish land owners was held at Dublin on the 28th. At the same time and in the same city a committee of other Irish land owners, led by Lord Dunraven, assembled and addressed a communication to the convention proposing a conference with the tenants relative to a possible sale of the lands to them. Dunraven's committee based this proposal upon the fact (see p. 522) that it had sent voting papers on the subject to 4,000 owners of more than 500 acres each, and that the vote returned stood 1,128 in favor of a conference with tenants and 578 opposed, the others not voting. To this communication the landlords replied that the tenants must first perfect a business organization and formulate the terms they desire. Lord Dunraven's response was the adoption by his committee of a resolution instructing the landlords that support his policy to take immediate steps for a conference with their tenants. It is believed that in this policy of conciliation he has the support of the king and the ministry.

The British House of Commons passed the much debated education bill (p. 502) on the 3d by a vote of 236 to 132. It was immediately sent to the House of Lords, where, on the same day, it received its first reading.

In Germany what promises fairly to bring about a dangerous crisis in parliamentary government has nearly come to a head. This serious situation has been precipitated by the determination of the protectionists to force through the ministerial tariff bill, a bill which is opposed stub-

bornly by both the Socialist party and the People's party. Under the rules of the reichstag the measure must be considered by paragraphs; but this process was too slow to satisfy its supporters, and a combination of the Conservative, the National Liberal and the Center parties was made for the purpose of ordering that the measure be passed upon, not by paragraphs, but as a whole. A motion to this effect was made, whereupon the reichstag was in an uproar in a minute. The People's party and the Socialist party, united against the conservative coalition, denounced the motion as out of order and autocratic. No vote upon it has yet been reached. The nature of the feeling aroused may be inferred from the following cabled extract from the speech of the Socialist leader, Bebel, in denunciation of the protection combination:

By devices such as these the tariff will be presented to the ruling classes at Christmas so that they, over their caviar and oysters, may sneer at the efforts of the Social Democrats to protect the pockets of the poor.

France is in the throes of another labor strike, that of the stokers and sailors, which has assumed serious proportions at Marseilles and become a subject of parliamentary consideration. For want of sea transportation passengers to the number of a thousand or more are delayed at that port, and 8,000 troops are patrolling the streets. In answer to an interpellation in parliament on the 1st, the minister of commerce explained that the policy of the ministry in the matter of strikes was to maintain an attitude of neutrality toward both parties, to protect the workmen in the free exercise of their right to strike, and also to enforce regularity in the public service. The postal service was already provided for, he said, and there was not a single mail bag now delayed; but it was not possible to re-establish the passenger and freight traffic in the normal way. There were several other modes of doing so, he continued, one being to furnish sailors of the navy to the steamship companies; but the ministry did not desire to do this, as it would be taking sides with the companies. Another method was to transport the passengers and freight on government ships, but if the ministry did this, it would collect the tolls for the benefit of the state. The third way was to requisition the vessels of the companies and

man them with sailors of the navy. The government was still considering which was the best and most efficacious remedy to apply to the situation.

The arbitration commission in the American anthracite coal strike, which took a recess on the 21st (p. 537), resumed its sessions on the 3d, when several witnesses were examined on behalf of the strikers, Mitchell being among them.

Thanksgiving day was, as usual, football day in the colleges and universities of the United States. The record of principal victories is as follows:

Michigan over Minnesota.....	23	to	6
Chicago over Wisconsin.....	11	to	0
Nebraska over Northwestern.....	12	to	0
Illinois over Iowa.....	89	to	0
Purdue over Notre Dame.....	8	to	6
Ohio over Indiana.....	6	to	6
Lake Forest over Monmouth.....	12	to	11
Kansas over Missouri.....	17	to	5
Leland Stanford over Utah.....	35	to	11
Knox over Chicago Dentals.....	65	to	6
Princeton Tigers over Rush.....	33	to	0
Pennsylvania over Cornell.....	12	to	11
Columbia over Syracuse.....	6	to	6
Carleton Indians over Georgetown.....	21	to	0

The college football casualties for the year ending on Thanksgiving day, November 27, 1902, as compared with those of the preceding year, are reported to have been—

	1902.	1901.
Deaths.....	12	8
Fatal wounds.....	1	0
Serious wounds.....	85	75
Total.....	99	83

NEWS NOTES.

—The Crerar library, of Chicago, has purchased Prof. Richard T. Ely's great collection of labor literature.

—The gold standard has been adopted by Spain and the mints closed to the free coinage of silver.

—The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, minister of the City Temple, London, and a preacher of international fame, died at London on the 28th.

—Prime Minister Sagasta, who recently reorganized the Spanish ministry (p. 522), resigned on the 3d. He declared that the resignation is irrevocable.

—By orders from Washington, received at Manila on the 2d, Maj. Glenn, convicted of using the "water cure" (p. 249), is to be tried again for cruelty committed during the Samar campaign.

—At recent general elections in Greece several of the ministers failed of reelection, and on the 1st the entire Zaimas cabinet, organized over a year ago (vol. iv., p. 535) consequently resigned.

—The monthly statement of the

treasury department for November shows on hand November 30, 1902:

Gold reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000 00
Available cash balance.....	204,575,588 09
Total.....	\$354,575,588 09
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30, 1902.....	358,574,116 85
Decrease.....	\$3,998,526 76

—The Socialist party vote in the State of Illinois, according to the Chicago Socialist, is as follows:

Chicago.....	13,612
Cook county outside of Chicago.....	641
Other counties.....	5,633
Total for State.....	19,946

To this the Socialist Labor party adds 8,325, making a combined socialist vote of 28,270.

—At a special election in San Francisco on the 2d, a proposition to issue \$700,000 in bonds for the purpose of equipping and operating the Geary street railway as a municipal utility received 15,120 votes to 11,334, a majority of 3,786. But as a two-thirds vote was requisite, the proposition failed.

—Prof. Asser, the Dutch jurist who has been arbitrating the claims of American sealers for the seizure about ten years ago of their vessels by the Russian government, has delivered his award in favor of the United States. He holds that a warship of one nation cannot pursue and capture a trespassing vessel of another beyond the territorial boundaries of the former nation.

—The November treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the Federal government for the five months ending November 30, 1902, shows the following:

Receipts:	
Tariff.....	\$126,469,738 95
Internal revenue.....	98,257,686 24
Miscellaneous.....	16,754,714 89
	\$241,482,149 08
Expenses:	
Civil and misc.....	\$52,368,061 37
War.....	57,942,740 67
Navy.....	33,502,290 89
Indians.....	6,250,858 91
Pensions.....	60,711,475 71
Interest.....	16,590,779 95
	\$227,366,227 50
Surplus.....	\$14,115,921 68

—The first international sanitary conference of the American republics convened at Washington on the 2d, the governments of Mexico, Cuba, Chili, Costa Rico, Salvador, Honduras and the United States being represented. Formal organization was completed by the election of Dr. Walter Wyman, surgeon general of the United States marine hospital service, as president, and Dr. Arthur R. Reynolds, of Chicago, as secretary.

—Lord Lansdowne, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, handed to the Chilian and Argentine ministers on the 25th the award of the British arbitration commission in the boundary dispute between Chili and the Argentine Republic, which more than once threatened to result in hos-

tilities between the two countries (p. 140). The award is essentially a compromise. Of the disputed territory eleven-nineteenths, are awarded to Chili and eight-nineteenths to Argentina.

PRESS OPINIONS.

THE MESSAGE AND THE TRUSTS. Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), Dec. 2.—In his treatment of the trust question the President is disappointing. His discussion of the subject is characterized by the same vague, inconsistent and inchoate suggestions that characterized his speeches during his campaign tour last Fall. He does not seem to know where he "is at," except that he desires to impress the people with the idea that he "means business" without arousing the fears of the trust magnates.

THOSE PHILIPPINE ATROCITIES. Springfield Republican (Ind.), Nov. 28 (weekly ed.).—There is hope even for Charles Francis Adams, Carl Schurz and Herbert Welsh. On the morrow of their complete vindication by the confession of the army captain who tortured Father Augustine to death, Mr. Roosevelt again assails them, charging them with "cruel injustice" because they have made an issue of the practice of torture as a modern method of conquest. His tone, however, at Philadelphia was a bit more subdued than it was at Welrs last Summer, when he said, apropos of the Adams-Schurz charges, that the army has been "cruelly maligned even by some who 'should have known better.'" When men prove their charges, as the Adams-Schurz committee have now done in the Father Augustine case, they are entitled to a little more consideration from the President of the United States than he had previously shown to them.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NEGRO. Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), Dec. 2.—President Roosevelt is right when he says that the door of opportunity should not be shut to the Negro and that every encouragement should be given to the men of integrity and ability of the race. However, appointing Negroes to office in Democratic States should not be the limit to the incentive to the Negro to rise. There ought to be at least one Negro in the President's cabinet, while the Negroes ought to be given their quota of the Federal offices in the Northern States. It is a cheap sort of play for Negro delegates to descant upon the equal rights of the Negro in the South, while barring him from office in the North. Omaha World-Herald (Dem.), Nov. 30.—Mr. Roosevelt never made a greater mistake than when he made public his letter to the citizens of Charleston. By the publication of that letter he calls attention to his administration on this particular line. He need not imagine that the people will be deceived by fine words. So long as all of his "in" appointments are made for the Southern States and his selections of Northern Negroes are "from" appointments, he need not expect that intelligent men will accept him seriously on this point.

PROSPERITY. Kansas City World (Dem.), Nov. 21.—According to an official report made by the Ohio bureau of labor statistics, a summary of interviews with 7,000 working women in Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland shows the average cost of living to be \$5.24 per week, and the average wages \$4.83 per week. Buffalo Enquirer (Ind.), Dec. 2.—Prosperity has come to be a vague term. Some may prosper and the masses may be distressed. Half may prosper and the other half may not. Most may prosper and there may still be a large minority who suffer. Let not partial prosperity be confounded with general prosperity.