

steamers of the Orinoco Co., belonging to Americans but which fly the Venezuelan flag and had been forcibly taken by the Venezuelan authorities for government uses, were captured on the 14th by the revolutionists. The rebel general, Matos, is reported as menacing Caraccas, the capital of Venezuela, from Uritucu, to the southeast; and the strategic coast point of Porto Cabello, to the west, is threatened and its capture has been reported and denied. Should this point be captured by the rebels, the possession of the coast city of Barcelona would enable them to hem in President Castro. His position is regarded as serious.

Attention is once more directed to the revolution in the neighboring republic of Colombia (vol. iv., p. 760), by a possible clash between that country and Great Britain over a question of transporting government troops in British merchant vessels. The Colombian authorities at Buenaventura, on the southern coast of the state of Antioquia, have been endeavoring to compel the "Ecuador," of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. of Liverpool, to carry government troops to Panama, where the war is raging. They claim the right to enforce their demands under a contract made by the steamship company in consideration of tax exemptions, subsidies and other privileges. Unwilling to comply, and fearing forcible measures, the agents of the company have asked protection through the British consul; and the British cruiser Phaeton has in consequence been ordered to Buenaventura.

When this revolution was last referred to in these columns (vol. iv., p. 760) a rebel defeat had just been reported as having occurred at Rio Frio, in the state of Magdalena, on the 21st of February. Further defeats of the rebels were reported early in April, which were so overwhelming as to encourage the belief in Washington that they had ended the war. But on the 16th of the same month the rebels captured a coast town, Bacos del Toro, west of Colon, after an all-night battle so severe that 150 men on both sides were killed; and on the 30th news of their capture of Rio Hacha was confirmed. A month later, June 1, it was reported by way of Kingston, Jamaica, that the revolution had then made such advances as to have taken from the control of the government all the

towns on the Isthmus except Colon and Panama, and to have compelled a complete reorganization of the government forces. Since then one of the severest battles of the war has been fought. It began at Agua Dulce, about 75 miles from Panama, on the 29th of July. The battle still raged on the 3d of August, with over 10,000 men engaged on both sides, but on the 4th there were indefinite rumors of its having ended. Several days later the rebels claimed a victory; but the government had previously claimed it, and definite news is still wanting.

Cuban disturbances are political, and grow out of the ordinary embarrassments due to the establishment of a new nation (pp. 121, 140, 153, 172) which has struggled through long years of rebellion against an alien power. The most notable event complete in itself, is the resignation of Emilio Terry as secretary of agriculture in President Palma's cabinet, which occurred on the 18th. Senor Terry's announced reason is his desire to visit Paris; but it is inferred that he found himself in total disagreement with the rest of the cabinet and the president regarding aids to agriculture. Another important event is the discovery that the tariff schedule adopted by the Cuban senate is designed to affect prejudicially about \$35,000,000 of imports from the United States, mostly such as are produced in the states that opposed Cuban reciprocity in the United States Congress at its recent session. It is hinted from Washington that the object of this measure is to assist President Roosevelt in securing tariff concessions by Congress to Cuban producers.

Over in the Philippine possessions of the United States disturbing news comes from Mindanao, whence indications of unrest (p. 265) were reported late last month. This unrest was more recently supposed to have been allayed by the surrender on the 5th of August of a Mohammedan priest who had been the leading opponent of American occupation of the island of Mindanao. He promised when surrendering, to influence the rest of the defiant Moros to follow his example. But this confidence in pacification appears to have been misplaced. On the 12th a party of Moros, armed with swords and spears, surprised an outpost of the 27th U. S. infantry, killing a sergeant and

one private and severely wounding another private. As the attacking party was from the strongly fortified Moros town of Bacolod it was expected that a retaliatory attack would be made upon that town by the Americans, especially as the reduction of its forts had been recommended by the American officer in command in the Lake Lanao region. But no decisive action is yet reported. The dispatches only say that the situation in Mindanao is again critical. Gen. Chaffee arrived in the island on the 15th on a tour of inspection.

Conflicts in the immediate neighborhood of Manila with what are called gangs of "ladrones," or highwaymen, are reported in somewhat astonishing number. In a Manila report of the 18th, which describes these rather significant conflicts, it is said that—

thirty members of the constabulary in charge of an American inspector encountered a strong force of ladrones near Manila yesterday. The inspector was wounded and four men killed. Reinforcements arrived and the constabulary killed six and captured five ladrones. Reports from Cavite report several skirmishes between the constabulary and ladrones in which the latter had eleven killed and nine captured. These were members of Felizardo's gang. The constabulary suffered no casualties.

In view of the fact that the Manila dispatches used to designate as "ladrones" bodies of men now admitted to have been "insurgents," these later reports not unnaturally suggest a query.

In furtherance of the establishment of civil government in the Philippines under the recent act of Congress (p. 199), Gen. Chaffee has issued an order to the army in the archipelago, a copy of which reached the war department by mail on the 19th, in which he gives strict orders to the troops not to interfere with the conduct of the civil government and to refrain from even making suggestions to civil officials. Only in case of a written demand are the troops to respond to any call for help, and no less authority than the governor of a province will be recognized by the military as competent to make such a call; nor will any less authority than a brigade commander respond. Soldiers are forbidden to use their weapons against a civil prisoner, and it is declared that "an at-