

ing the old tribal laws with the lash. Upon receiving this information, coupled with orders from the war department, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, commanding the department of the Missouri, ordered troops to the scene of the outbreak. But when the troops arrived they learned that the reports had greatly exaggerated the actual condition of affairs. According to the report of Lieut. Dixon, who commands them, there had not been any overt acts of rebellion. Soon after the arrival of the troops two deputy marshals captured and turned over to them the leader of the restless tribesmen, Crazy Snake, an exploit which is regarded as having put an end to the danger.

In American politics, the senatorial deadlocks in Nebraska and Delaware, reported last week, continue, and two new ones have begun. One of the latter is in the legislature of Montana, over the election of a successor to Thomas H. Carter, republican. The other is in Oregon over the election of a successor to George W. McBride, republican.

Venezuela is still in the revolutionary throes in which we left her six months ago (page 153), when the partisans of Gen. Hernandez were fighting the new government of President Castro. This disturbance dates back to the inauguration of President Andrade in March, 1898. Andrade's administration was conspired against by Gen. Hernandez, the presidential candidate whom Andrade had defeated; and in August, 1899, Andrade arrested Hernandez and a large number of his partisans. Meanwhile Gen. Castro, a partisan of Hernandez, had become involved in a local revolution in one of the provinces, which became so serious that President Andrade sent 12,000 troops to suppress it. Thereupon Castro, uniting his fortunes with those of Hernandez, made the local revolution national, and in November, 1899, overthrew Andrade and organized an administration of his own. In ignoring Hernandez he precipitated a second revolution. Hernandez assailed Castro now, and the consequent war has continued ever since. On the 27th news was received of fierce fighting which had resulted in the final defeat of the Castro government; but the government has denied defeat, and later informa-

tion indicates that at any rate Castro is still unconquered. There are reports of the 30th from Puerto Rico that the deposed and exiled president, Andrade, has organized a filibustering expedition to sail from Cuba and join the revolutionary forces against Castro. Thus far Castro has acted as a dictator; but the Venezuelan congress, to assemble on the 20th, is expected to legalize his acts.

In this Venezuelan rebellion the United States has become somewhat entangled, owing to Castro's interference with certain asphalt interests in Venezuela owned by Americans. The New York and Bermudez Asphalt company, known as the Barber syndicate, held from the pre-revolutionary government grants of the Bermudez asphalt lake, which the Castro government has cancelled, reissuing grants to a rival company—the Warner syndicate. The original grantees, the Barbers, have armed their employes to resist the Castro government, and appealed to the United States for protection as American citizens. At first the reports from Washington regarding this matter were belligerent in tone, but recently they have been more pacific. The whole affair, however, is in abeyance so far as action by the United States is concerned. The Barbers refuse to resort to the Venezuelan courts, taking the ground that the courts are under the dictation of President Castro.

Closely associated with the rebellion in Venezuela is that in Colombia, our last report from which was printed last June on pages 152-53. This revolution had then been in progress more than a year. It began with a revolt against the party in power for its corruption; and at the time of that report a terrible battle, lasting 70 hours, in which Venezuelans participated on the insurgent side, had been fought on the Venezuelan frontier. In November there came news of severe government reverses. These reports were followed by others indicating insurgent defeats. A little later the insurgents appeared to have the advantage. Early in January apparently trustworthy reports were received of another great battle on the Venezuelan border, in which Venezuelans again aided the insurgents, who, however, were defeated; but these reports were quickly followed

by statements apparently as authentic, that the insurgents have been successful in nearly all engagements. The latter reports may be accepted as the more probable, since the Colombian government has announced that the insurgents are approaching Panama and making ready to bombard it, and has thereby called out a notification from the United States government that it will not permit the bombardment of Panama nor any other interference with transit across the isthmus. To enforce this notice the United States has stationed the cruiser Philadelphia at Panama.

NEWS NOTES.

—Guiseppe Verdi, the famous musical composer, died at Milan on the 27th.

—An encyclical letter on socialism was issued on the 26th by Pope Leo XIII.

—The United Mine Workers of America have been in convention at Indianapolis since the 21st.

—Unvaccinated children are forbidden by the Chicago school authorities to attend the public schools.

—Baron Wilhelm von Rothschild, head of the Rothschild banking firm, died at Frankfort on the 25th.

—A resolution providing for a constitutional convention has been introduced in the lower house of the Illinois legislature.

—Petitions are circulating extensively in Cleveland, urging Tom L. Johnson to be a candidate for mayor on the street car issue.

—The senate of Indiana has passed a bill to suppress lynching. It forfeits the office of sheriffs who permit mobs to take prisoners away from them.

—Both houses of the legislature of Tennessee have passed a bill prohibiting the sale or importation of cigarettes and another forbidding the co-education of the white and the negro races.

—The supreme court of Michigan decided on the 29th that the Michigan inheritance tax is constitutional though not uniform, basing the decision on the point that it is a tax not upon property but upon the privilege of transferring property.

—P. Louter Wessels, commissioner of the South African republics, and Hercules D. Viljoen, late field cornet of the Transvaal army and recently from the scenes of the South African war, will lecture at Central Music hall, Chicago, on the 5th, for the benefit of the Transvaal fund.

—A committee of alumni of the Stanford university, appointed to as-