

months from the first payment and half 18 months later. This does not, however, include friars who have not raised the hostility of the natives and who remained in their parishes after the revolution of 1898 till now, except those in Manila. Gov. Taft also requires that no Spanish friars shall be substituted for those withdrawn. Yet the churches, schools, and universities may be directed by Spanish clergy or orders, other than those withdrawn, or by clergy of the same orders who are not Spanish, it being regarded as necessary to convince the Filipinos that the ancient regime of the Spanish friars is finished. It is this question of the expulsion of the Spanish friars that causes the papal authorities to hesitate, and so prolongs the negotiations. They shrink from making the pope a direct party by contract to enforcing the expulsion.

A reply to Gov. Taft's latest communication was delivered to him by the papal commission on the 9th. It is acquiescent as to all the proposals except those relating to the secularizing of the public schools and the expulsion of the friars. The question of the schools is not strenuously insisted upon, the commission contenting itself with an expression of hope that it may be left in abeyance until the apostolic delegate to be sent to Manila may come to an understanding about it with Gov. Taft. But on the question of expelling the friars, the papal commission is positive. It says that the pope cannot agree to recall the Spanish friars within a fixed period unless compelled by superior force, as the doing so would be an act of hostility toward Spain and in derogation of the treaty of Paris between Spain and the United States. This argumentative inquiry is then made by the commission:

If the United States cannot order the withdrawal of the friars, how can the pope do so, especially when it has been proved that all the accusations made against them were partly false, partly exaggerated, and partly inexact?

At the same time the commission offers the papal promise that the pope will try to introduce into the Philippines clergy of other nationalities than that of Spain, especially Americans, gradually, as they are found ready or are adapted to the purpose, and that the Spanish friars

shall not return to the parishes they left and where their presence could provoke trouble.

Venezuelan affairs are believed to be approaching a crisis. Our last reference to the revolution in progress in that country was made in March (vol. iv., p. 760), when a new revolutionary leader, Gen. Matos, had appeared upon the scene and was believed to be about to march upon Carupano, a town of 12,000 inhabitants in the state of Bermudez and about 100 miles west of Guiria. From that time on there were evidences of renewed activity, and the cause of the government seemed to lose ground. Carupano and Barcelona were reported to be under siege by the rebels later in March; the seaport town of Tucacas in the state of Lara was captured by them on the 3d of April; and a few days afterward the whole eastern part of Venezuela was said to be virtually in their control. About the middle of that month the government suffered a disastrous loss in a battle near San Antonio in which Gen. Ramon Castillo, in command of the government forces, was killed. Meanwhile the revolutionists had got possession of Carupano, and early in May were attacked by the government from land and sea. After a long and bloody battle the government forces were driven back and took refuge in their gunboats. But the town had been so badly injured by the bombardment from the sea that toward the end of the same month the rebels abandoned it, and government troops took possession without resistance. They soon learned, however, that the rebels were seriously menacing several towns in the state of Carabobo, and that fresh uprisings against the government were taking place all over the country. Matters became worse in June. Government troops were repeatedly beaten by the Matos revolutionists; and about the middle of the month President Castro declared a blockade of the Orinoco river. On the 15th of June the revolutionists had captured La Vela de Coro, on the coast, and invested Coro, three miles inland and the capital of the state of Falcon, where Vice President Ayala was in command of government troops. The rebels achieved another victory a few days later near Urica in the state of Cumana. On the 3d President Castro's brother was completely

routed near Barcelona; and on the 8th President Castro himself landed near Barcelona, in the state of Bermudez, with government troops, intending to lead in person an attack upon the rebels who then had Barcelona partly surrounded. Before leaving his capital he published a proclamation recognizing the existence of anarchy in Venezuela and promising to suppress it and reestablish peace shortly. The American state department received, also on the 8th, advices from Venezuela, said to be of a serious nature, though their purport has not yet been divulged.

Another labor strike, which may or may not become formidable, has broken out in the United States. It is of the railroad freight handlers at Chicago. Of the 9,000 freight handlers on the 24 railroads centering in Chicago, more than 7,800 are union men. On the 25th of June the union presented its demands to all the railroads and requested an answer by July 1. The demands called for an advance in wages, time and a half pay for overtime, double pay for Sundays and holidays, two pay days a month, and recognition by the railroads of the union. Most of the roads raised wages, July 1, without reference to the demands of the union and not quite up to those demands, but all refused to treat with representatives of the union, though they were willing to treat with representatives of their own employees respectively. Fearing that the roads would "blacklist" leaders among their own employees who appeared as representatives of the men, the union has insisted upon its demand in this respect. The Chicago Federation of Labor refused to support the freight handlers in their position. It urged them to appoint a committee to meet the railroad officials, selecting the committee from the various freight houses, so as virtually to conform to the requirement of the railroads that the only committees with which they would consult must come direct from their own employees respectively. While the subject was thus under consideration, it was discovered so the freight handlers claim, that the railroads were importing men to take their places. They consequently decided, quite suddenly and unexpectedly, on the morning of the 7th, to quit work in a body. On the 8th, representatives of labor organ-