

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—The only significant political incidents of the week are the interviews with Southern Senators which have appeared in the Washington papers wherein they show signs of "crawfishing." With the same devotion to commercial considerations which marked the action of New England towards slavery prior to 1860, chambers of commerce and similiar bodies in Southern cities are calling on their United States Senators to vote to ratify the treaty with Panama, because of the "commercial" advantages to the South that will follow the building of an Isthmian canal. These Senators are being almost pointedly told that this is no time for any fine spun questions of honor. No matter what means were adopted to bring about this made-to-order revolution, this presto-change republic, no matter what treaty may have been entered into in the past under which the United States obligated itself to preserve intact Colombia's sovereignty over the Isthmus, we must shut our eyes to all such questions. The important thing to remember is that there is money in it, that "commercial" considerations alone should control.

It would be interesting to know whether any of the \$40,000,000 to be paid to the old Panama company (a large part of whose stock is undoubtedly held in Wall street) has found its way in small dribblets down among the opinion moulders of the Southern States.

The only other political straw is a long, carefully prepared interview with Congressman S. B. Cooper, of Texas, who is believed to speak for Senator Bailey of his State—heretofore regarded as for Gorman. Cooper intimates that the Gorman boom is losing strength. He hastens to insist that everything points to Gorman as chairman of the national committee to manage the campaign; but declares that he cannot believe Gorman will be nominated, as all who are for the Maryland Senator have an "if" or a "but" connected with their endorsement, and no man can be nominated with "ifs" and "buts."

The announced intention to send Bourke Cockran to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mayor McClellan, and the further announcement that Congressman Ira E. Rider was to resign to make room for ex-Senator Charles A. Towne, indicated a determination on the part of the present leaders of Tammany Hall to cut a larger figure in the Democratic national convention in 1904 than has on occasions been the case. The expectation presumably was that Bourke Cockran and Charles A. Towne would, during the present session of Congress, deliver such speeches as would attract the attention of the country, so that on the assembling of the

national convention they, as the mouthpieces of Tammany Hall, might wield a large influence there.

The plan has been checked temporarily, at least, by the refusal of Congressman Rider to resign, the Washington Post quoting him as saying "that he has no intention of resigning and that no one has authority to speak for him on the subject and that he intends to serve out his term."

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NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Dec. 31.

So far from being at an end, as reported in the news dispatches of a month or so ago (p. 536), the civil war in Santo Domingo has developed into a triangular conflict and become more destructive than ever.

Hardly had the deposed president, Wos y Gil, signed articles of capitulation, which he did on the 24th of November, when a controversy arose between the partisans of ex-President Jiminez and those of Gen. Morales, both of whom had been leaders in the insurrection against Wos y Gil. Morales becoming president of the provisional government which was established upon the surrender of Wos y Gil, Jiminez promptly led an insurrection against it. A severe battle was fought at Santiago de los Caballeros on the 17th of December in which Jiminez was successful. As time went on matters grew worse for the Morales government in its resistance to Jiminez; and meanwhile a third faction, under Gen. Gelletier, formed a second provisional government, opposed to both Morales and Jiminez. This was done at Azua de Compostella, about the 20th. A press dispatch of the 28th summed up the situation as follows:

With two revolutions in progress, two provisional governments endeavoring to establish themselves, an independent body of insurgents in the field, and battles raging at a half-dozen places throughout the republic, the situation in Santo Domingo is more critical than at any time since the outbreak of hostilities several months ago.

Gen. Jiminez was fiercely attacking the city of San Domingo on the 27th.

In consequence of the critical situation in Santo Domingo the

American minister asked his government for the protection of an additional war ship in Dominican waters; and on the 28th Secretary Moody cabled Rear Admiral Lambertson, commanding the South Atlantic squadron at Trinidad, to dispatch one of his vessels to San Domingo at full speed to assist the gunboat Newport in protecting American and other interests.

American affairs in connection with the Panama question (p. 597) seem to be approaching a critical climax. There is no doubt, at any rate, that the President is making war-like preparations. Secret orders are reported to have been issued by the war department to all branches of the service stationed at convenient points on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts to be in readiness to move upon a minute's notice; and transports at New York, San Francisco, Boston and other points are held in readiness for instant movement. Orders were issued on the 29th to four companies of engineers, ten batteries of light artillery, ten regiments of infantry and two of cavalry, to hold themselves in readiness to move. These reports are, of course, not authoritative; but they have the appearance of being well founded.

Another European Power has recognized the Panama republic. This is Great Britain. The occasion was celebrated on the 25th, when the British consul at Panama announced the fact.

The arrival of Wm. I. Buchanan at Panama, and his presentation of credentials from President Roosevelt as American minister (p. 597) to the provisional government of Panama, were reported on the 25th.

In behalf of Colombia, Gen. Reyes, as special envoy from that country to the United States, presented to Secretary Hay on the 24th the Colombian protest against American interference in Panama. No reply has yet been made and the protest has not been authoritatively published. The following unauthoritative summary of the main points of the protest is reported in Washington dispatches:

The United States should conserve the