

the seaport of the South American State of Chile, and have inflicted great damage at Santiago, the capital, and at a number of smaller cities. Word was received in the United States under date of the 16th from Buenos Ayres that on account of a terrible earthquake in the Andes communication with Chile had been cut off. Later came the news that at eight o'clock on Thursday evening, Aug. 16th, the district of Chile in which Valparaiso and Santiago are situated had been shaken by a most violent earthquake. At once whole rows of houses in Valparaiso collapsed, and, as in San Francisco, within fifteen minutes fires appeared in different parts of the city. The shocks continued all during the night and afterwards, and by Aug. 20th 381 shocks had been recorded as having been felt since the first, which was the most terrific. Water gave out, and winds swept the fires, once believed to be extinguished, to renewed destruction. Apparently not more than 20 per cent. of the buildings of the city have escaped. The loss of life is estimated at from 3,000 to 5,000. Among the dead is Senora Montt, the wife of Admiral Montt, the President-elect. Valparaiso has been a city of about 125,000 population, and the press reports speak of 100,000 persons being encamped in much misery in the squares of the city and on the heights above. Food is lacking and cold rains have added to the suffering. In Santiago many buildings were thrown down, and fire followed. The dead there are reported as 55, and the property loss as \$6,000,000. Many small towns suffered relatively more than Santiago. Eleven in Chile and three in Argentina are believed to be practically demolished. One of the Chilean towns—Quillota, 30 miles from Valparaiso, with 10,000 inhabitants—after suffering greatly from the first shocks, was reported on the 21st, as a result of a later shock, to have wholly sunk from sight, with all its inhabitants save about a hundred. The Island of Juan Fernandez, often called "Robinson Crusoe's island," which lay about four hundred miles west of Valparaiso in the Pacific, and belonged to Chile, has wholly disappeared. In the early part of the 18th century a Scotch castaway lived on this island for four years, and his adventures formed the basis of Defoe's immortal story. In the early part of the last century it was used by the Chilean government as a convict settlement, out of more recent years it has been but sparsely inhabited.

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An earthquake shock was reported from Quito, the capital of Ecuador, on the 21st, and shocks were reported from the Island of Martinique, in the West Indies, on the 14th and 20th.

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Mr. Root in South America.

At a state banquet given to him at Buenos Ayres on the 14th (p. 464), Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States, delivered another of the series of speeches which are making so much impression in South America. In this speech Mr. Root said to the people of Argentina:

We rejoice in your prosperity. We are proud of your achievements. We feel that you are justifying our faith in free government and self-government, that you are maintaining our great thesis, which demands the posses-

sion, the enjoyment and the control of the earth to the people who inhabit it.

Here as elsewhere Mr. Root's utterances have been received with the most profound gratification. The Brazilian government has recognized the import of the speeches Mr. Root delivered at Rio (p. 417) by changing the name of the building in which the sessions of the Pan-American Conference have been held, from "Pavillion St. Louis" to the "Monroe Palace."

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In view of the terrible calamity which has befallen Chile, Mr. Root will limit his proposed visit there to a call for the expression of sympathy.

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The Pan-American and the Drago Doctrine.

The Pan-American Conference's committee on the Drago doctrine, which declares against the use of armed force for the collection of public debts (p. 395), recommends that the individual countries composing the Conference ask the Hague tribunal to pass upon the merits of the proposition, not only with regard to the forcible collection of public debts, but of all pecuniary claims.

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Threatened Revolution in Cuba.

A revolt against President Palma's government (p. 130) which does not seem to be based on any political issue, was reported from Cuba under date of the 19th, when seven Liberal leaders were arrested on the charge of conspiring to assassinate the President and overthrow his administration. Disorder and outlawry had been growing in the western provinces where bands of so-called rebels have been gathering. Their grievances are said to be that the government has been most unjust in the matter of elections and appointments, and has not carried out its promises of public improvements. Troops have been sent to the disturbed districts.

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Threatened Revolution in Santo Domingo.

Santo Domingo, which comprises the eastern half of the large island southeast of Cuba, is disturbed by revolutionary bands presumed to be acting in the interests of the former President Jimenez. The press dispatches make no connection between the outbreak and the return to the United States on a vacation of Col. George C. Colton, who is in charge of the collection and impounding of the Santo Domingo customs, under American jurisdiction. It may be remembered, however, that Santo Domingo's last revolutionary event, which involved no bloodshed, occurred last December (vol. viii, p. 630) when Col. Colton took charge of the customs. In regard to the customs, Col. Colton reports that "despite the fact that the Dominican customs produced greater revenues last year than ever before, averaging more than \$200,000 per month, the comparative collections thus far this year are about one-third more."

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Terrorism in Russia.

Deprived of self-government through the dispersal of its first national assembly (p. 393), the baffled mass of Russian life seems to be gradually working

self into a fury too blind to know fear. The statistics of the week ending the 18th showed that fifty-eight officials were murdered and forty-three were wounded in Russia proper; that fifty bomb depots were discovered; that six safes were rifled of money and that sixty-three persons were robbed. These official figures do not take into account the pillaging in the country. The center of the movement has seemed to be in Poland, and on the 18th three bombs were thrown at the Governor-general of Warsaw, wounding him seriously. Official Russia is reported to be panic-stricken, no official's life being deemed safe. The police are included in this panic, and not without reason, for reports of the 16th from St. Petersburg stated that on that day scores of policemen, soldiers and petty officials had been shot down; and that at Aelotsk, at a preconcerted signal, every policeman in the streets was killed or wounded. More remarkable still is the account of a rout of the Cossacks by organized peasants, armed only with their agricultural instruments. Says a press report of Aug. 17th:

A detachment of thirty Cossacks had been dispatched from the town of Penza to a neighboring village to arrest agitators. The villagers sounded the tocsin on the church bell, whereupon a crowd of 500 peasants, armed with scythes and other rustic weapons, gathered and advanced to the rescue of the prisoners. Undaunted by the Cossacks' whips and sabers, the peasants charged and forced the Cossacks to take refuge behind a stone wall. A volley from the carbines of the Cossacks failed to check the peasants, and finally the soldiers were obliged to flee. The peasants are reported to have fought more like wild animals than human beings.

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Ten of the Kronstadt mutineers, whose trial began on the 14th (p. 462), were condemned to death. The larger number were sentenced to terms of imprisonment at hard labor.

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The credit of \$7,500,000 voted by the Douma for mine relief (p. 370), has been exhausted. The government is expected to have recourse to an internal loan of \$27,500,000 to provide further means to prevent starvation and for seed for a new crop in the mine district. The St. Petersburg newspapers are said to report that Americans are negotiating for the purchase of the Nerchinsk gold mines, which "are supposed to contain quartz worth \$2,000,000,000," and which have been the source of a great scandal, implicating several of the grand dukes. The court "crowd" is believed to be anxious to dispose of them; it is said that the Americans are wary of purchasing a concession which might later be repudiated by a people's parliament.

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Advanced Civilization in the Far East.

Reports of how the Japanese met and conquered their famine of last fall, have reached this country. They seem to have acted with a broad grasp of general measures combined with an attention to detail at the West has probably never equalled in similar emergencies. The famine extended over a densely populated area 200 miles long and 75 miles wide. Early in the famine the people took to eating the roots and leaves of trees and shrubs, acorns and

straw. The government met this condition, since starvation will not wait, by sending chemists to ascertain the food values of these emergency rations, and to explain them to the people in lectures, in which they pointed out the suitable roots and leaves, and directed them in the preparation of food from acorns. The poisonous plants were described and food values demonstrated. In a few weeks contributions of food and money began to arrive, which the government distributed with care that the people should not be pauperized. In every village headquarters were established and food was given to last three days, but in no instance did it exceed in amount 2½ cents a day for each person. No money was given. Supervision was sufficiently minute to make certain that every man, woman and child was looked after. But most notable were the arrangements for the future. In distributing funds the government required the tilling of all lands. Says the Chicago Record-Herald, from which we have condensed the foregoing:

Laborers were put into fields which had been barren for two years, and they were cultivated and made ready for a rice crop. There was no confiscation. The government was looking to the prosperity of its people, and after tilling the ground and putting in the crop turned it over to the owner and said: "Here is your farm ready to produce. See to it that you make every effort to keep the ground tilled, and pay back in five years the cost of what the government has done."

Naturally, in such readjustments the "land question," as it is called in England, the "agrarian question" as it is called in Russia, came to the fore. It is reported that the government found many rice fields poorly laid out, and these it replotted with a regulation that each field was to be about one-fourth of an acre. And "if when surveyed it was found that a farmer did not have the required area, enough land was taken from his neighbors, and the local officials established the price to be paid for it." And the report states further that "this regulation is being enforced gradually throughout the Empire."

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The Filipino Independence Party.

On the first of July the Independence Party of the Philippines was formally inaugurated at Manila, at the Restaurant Luzon, by representative committees from the different provinces. The essential features of the party's platform, according to the Manila Renacimiento, as translated in the Springfield Republican, are:

To obtain the immediate independence of the Philippine Islands, so that they can constitute themselves as a sovereign, free and independent nation, protected, through the intervention of the United States of America, by an international treaty, which shall establish and guarantee forever the neutrality of the islands.

The party binds itself to work ad interim "for the establishment of two legislative chambers, to be elected by vote; for the complete separation of the branches of government; for provincial and municipal autonomy; for the realization of Roosevelt's principle, that the present government should be converted into a government of Filipinos, assisted by Americans; for the reorganization of the civil service on a more just basis."