

There is a recurrence of the Panama question (vol. vi., p. 630; vol. vii., p. 121) in the action of the Congress of Colombia, in session at Bogota on the 27th. Lewis M. Castro was seated as the representative of Panama, after the passage by the Senate of resolutions refusing to recognize the Panama secession. A protest denouncing the intervention of the United States was also passed, and the lower House adopted a motion cancelling all existing treaties between Colombia and the United States and severing all diplomatic and consular relations between the two countries.

International difficulties over the operations of the Russian "volunteer fleet" in the Red Sea (p. 247) show no signs of abatement, although some special adjustments have been made. The British steamer Malacca is reported to have been released under arrangements with Great Britain after a perfunctory search in Suda Bay, Crete, for contraband goods. But on the 23d the Hamburg-American steamer Scandia (German) was brought to Suez under the Russian flag and with a Russian prize crew on board. She had been seized in the Red Sea. On the 26th the Peninsular and Oriental steamer Formosa arrived at Suez in the same condition, she also having been captured by the Russians on the Red Sea.

Similar depredations by the Vladivostock squadron are reported from the Far East. This elusive squadron was reported on the 24th as having appeared off Shimoda, Japan, and in the early evening of the same day as having sunk an unknown merchantman. It was reported on the 25th as having sunk the British steamer Knight Commander, carrying American merchandize, and as having on the same day captured the German steamer Arabia. On the 26th it was reported to have captured the British steamer Calchas.

Following is a list of the neutral vessels thus far attacked by Russia:

In the Red Sea:—Prinz Heinrich (German), stopped and searched and Japanese mail taken; Malacca (British), captured

and taken to Suda Bay; Arçova (British), captured, but released at Suez; Scandia (German), captured; Formosa (British), captured.

In the Far East:—Knight Commander (British), captured and sunk; Arabia (German), captured; Cheltenham (British), captured; Allanton (British), captured; Calchas (British), captured.

From the seat of the Russian-Japanese war (p. 247) the week's news shows that after repulsing the Russians at Motien pass on the 17th, the Japanese under Kuroki advanced on the 18th in a northwesterly direction and following a severe fight occupied Kiaotung, a strongly fortified town on the Chi river, on the 19th.

Soon after these operations by Gen. Kuroki at the northern extremity of the Japanese enveloping movement, an attack was made at the southwestern extremity by Gen. Oku upon Newchwang. A two days' battle ended on the 25th with the evacuation of Newchwang by the Russians. The Russians have now retired northward to Haicheng.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—It is reported from St. Petersburg on the 28th that Mr. Plehve, the Russian minister of the interior, was assassinated at ten o'clock that morning by the explosion of a bomb thrown under his carriage. The report is confirmed, but without further details.

—The Continental Party of the United States of America was chartered as an Illinois corporation on the 22d. Its founders are Dr. James P. Lynch, Clark Ervin and Dr. Robert C. Coy, all of Chicago; and its declared purpose is to unite the disaffected elements of all other parties.

—The new White Star line steamship Baltic, which recently started upon her first eastern trip across the Atlantic, is the largest liner in the world. She is 35 feet longer than the Great Eastern was and more than 100 feet longer than the big Campania, of the Cunard line. Her total length is 725 feet, with a cargo capacity of 24,000 tons, which is 4,000 tons greater than the Cedric, the second largest liner, also owned by the White Star line. Her passenger capacity is 3,000.

—John P. Holland, inventor of the Holland submarine torpedo boat, announces his invention of a flying machine which will not cost more than \$10. He says that within five years men will be flying with this apparatus from New York to Chicago in a day. The apparatus consists of four wings with ban-

boo frames, which will be attached to the arms and waist of the person using them. It will not weigh more than 25 pounds. The inventor is confident that any man will be able to fly with it without elaborate preliminary training.

—At a memorial service in Cleveland on the 24th in memory of the late Mayor Jones, of Toledo (pp. 236, 243, 248), speeches were made by the Rev. John F. Carroll, of Holy Name church, Henry, Lewis, the Rev. Harris R. Cooley, and Mayor Johnson. In a brief speech Mr. Johnson said:

Mayor Jones left his monument in the hearts of the people who knew him. Without such strife as is usual in the political arena: with a smile for a friend and a kind word for an opponent, he won his way in Toledo, in Ohio and in the nation. As my tribute to Mayor Jones I desire to say that Toledo is better; Ohio is better; the nation is better, and the whole world is better for his having lived. He accomplished his great work, not by clubbing the people but by showing to them that it is better to do right to others even as they would have others do right by them.

—"The Friends of Russian Freedom," a society which has existed for many years in England, with Dr. R. Spence Watson as president, and is supported by a cooperating society in this country under the presidency of the Hon. Wm. Dudley Foulke, has issued an appeal for contributions, to be sent to J. T. Green, 40 Outer Temple, Strand, London, W. C., England, who is vouched for in this country by George Kennan and Francis J. Garrison, or to Alice Stone Blackwell, secretary of the American society, 45 Boutwell avenue, Dorchester, Mass. The funds are used for the relief of Russian political exiles in Siberia. Among the other officers of the American society are George Kennan, Julia Ward Howe and William Lloyd Garrison.

#### PRESS OPINIONS.

BRYAN.

Bellefleur (Ill.) News (Dem.), July 12.—William Jennings Bryan at St. Louis fought manfully for his theories and convictions and was squarely defeated. The magnanimous spirit in which he accepted the result made him virtually victor, for it is certain that he never before had so many friends in America as he has to-day.

The (St. Louis) (ensor (Ind.)—The Hon of the tribe of Jefferson. . . . Perhaps you and I will never fully realize all the moral courage, the tireless endurance, the firm belief in one's cause and, above all, the iron will required to face a great hostile national convention for two days and nights without rest or sleep, because we can never rise to that elevation, but it undoubtedly makes demands on all that is in a man who attempts it, and is very great indeed. It is a performance that was almost epic and worthy as the theme of the most gifted artist of pen or brush.

Dubuque Telegraph-Herald (Dem.), July 24.—Mr. Bryan sees what every student with discerning eye must see: the paramount need of breaking the ever-increasing power of the corporations. The first monopoly to be destroyed is the railroad monopoly, which is defeating the ends of representative government. . . . Mr. Bryan will have a large following and he will succeed in organizing the progressive and radical wing of the Democratic party. . . . The Telegraph-Herald is glad to enlist with Mr. Bryan in this contest. It will follow