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THE CHASTISEMENT OF CASTRO.

Latest advices from The Hague give no indication of improvement in the very strained relations now existing between the Dutch Government and President Castro of Venezuela. We carefully refrain from using the words "Venezuelan Government," and for a very good reason. For the past five or six years Senor Castro has had the administrative reins tightly grasped in his own hands, and to all intents and purposes. Venezuela today labours under a one-man dictatorship. If this man were of the strictly integral calibre of President Diaz of Mexico, who, being a dictator, uses all his influence to promote the best interests of Mexico, there would be little reason to complain. But throughout his entire administration Castro has maintained an attitude of studied insolence to every Government unfortunate enough to have had dealings with him, hurling threats and vituperation at the heads of all with temerity enough to question his arbitrary rulings. He did not hesitate to openly defy the United States, and there is little doubt that the proverbial patience of the American Government has frequently been strained to within an ace of breaking point by this diminutive Terror of the Southern Continent. Castro's latest display of splenetic insolence, however, is likely to bring down upon his head the just wrath of Holland. It is distinctly satisfactory to learn that the United States has assured the Dutch Cabinet of its intention to allow Holland a free hand as regards the chastisement of Venezuela, subject, of course, to certain limitations which are unavoidably imposed by the Monroe Doctrine. There is, indeed, abundant proof that Castro has always taken advantage of the protection afforded by this Doctrine, which has too long stood between him and the avenging arm of an outraged Europe.

Apart from the immunity from attack conferred upon Venezuela by legal circumstances, there are other difficulties, chiefly geographical, confronting the Power with sufficient determination to make an armed demonstration against its coasts. The enezueian coast towns are all protected from attack by the peculiar configuration of the coast; vast mountains rising sheer out of the ocean to lofty heights convey to the spectator an impression of frowning defiance, and make it improbable that a bombardment from the sea would be much more effective than a pyrotechnic display. Should actual hostilities unfortunately break out between Holland and Venezuela, the former's most potent weapon will be the blockade, since the landing of troops it quite out of the question. A view is gaining ground in many quarters that the present is a fitting occasion for the Great Powers to intervene and insist that Venezuela should send her case for arbitration to The Hague, and that in the case of her refusal united action should be taken against her. From whatever standpoint the matter is viewed, it is highly deplorable that the pig-headed aggressiveness of one lone individual in an insignificant State should lead to a rupture of the world's harmony. If the clash is averted, it will be wholly due to the just and conciliatory spirit in which Holland invariably enters upon foreign political matters; and if, on the other hand, the dogs of war are let loose, it will be solely on account of Castro's malignant mismanagement of the present negotiations. It is not too much to say that should Holland deem it necessary to eventually employ force against Venezuela, the entire civilised world will echo the encouragement given-well-meaningly, if irreverently-to Queen Wilhelmina by a Philadelphia newspaper: "Go right ahead, little girl."

NO U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN VENEZUELA. (From our New York correspondent.)

It is reported from Washington that in the "Diplomatic List" of the State Department this month Venezuela, for the first time in many years, is omitted; as there is no diplomatic or consular representative of the United States there now.

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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

FIFTY-ONE BRITISH SAILORS DROWNED.

Tokio, August 28. According to news which has reached here, the British steamer "Dunearn" was wrecked by a typhoon off the isle of Kiuschiu on August 26th, only two men being saved out of the crew of 53 hands.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

A PLETHORA OF MONEY. (From our own correspondent.)

London, August 28.

In their latest weekly financial review, dated New York, 15th inst., which is more than usually interesting, Messrs. Henry Clews and Co., discussing the abundance and cheapness of money, the New York banks being literally glutted with idle funds to an extent exceeding all previous records, ask: "Where does this great pile of gold come from? Well, the United States, in addition to an already large stock of the precious metal, is producing annually at the rate of \$100,000,000 and over. Last fall there was imported more than \$100,000,000, of which only about half was returned. Much less is now being consumed in the arts or for adornment than formerly, owing to business depression, and considerable amounts have been returned from hoarding since the panic. In ordinary times such a swollen surplus would be reduced by exporting it to Europe. But the foreign banks already hold about \$150,000,000 more gold than a year ago and have no present need to call upon the United States, with South Africa breaking all records in output. This worldwide ease in money and surfeit of gold must exert an inflationary effect upon values. When not wanted for purposes of legitimate business it will surely be used for speculation."

WIDESPREAD DAMAGE BY FLOODS.

New York, August 29. The floods in North and South Carolina are estimated to have caused damage amounting to two and a half million dollars. A despatch from Folsom (New Mexico) says that through an overflow of the Cimmaron river, due to a cloud-burst, 16 people met their death, and a number of residences were swept away. Vast tracts of territory adjacent to Trinidad (Colorado) are inundated. Twelve railroad bridges have so far been destroyed by the torrents.

Augusta, Georgia, August 29. The consequences of the floods in the Savannah river are more serious than were at first reported. Twenty bodies have been recovered, and the captain of a river steamer says that he saw 25 bodies, mostly those of negroes, floating down the stream. Many cotton-spinning factories have been damaged.

FINANCIERS' NERVES IMPROVING.

New York, August 28. There is a marked contrast in the manner in which Wall Street has faced the latest financial disaster, and its behaviour during the panic of last autumn. A failure on the scale of the A. O. Brown smash is not, of course, to be regarded with apathy, but it has occasioned, all things considered, a wonderfully small amount of excitement, and today it is confidently believed that no calamitous sequel need be anticipated. It appears as though the inner history of the Brown failure is likely to prove exceedingly interesting, for it is stated on good authority this morning that it was directly brought

about by the bankers, who objected to the methods of the firm, and consequently resolved to put them out of business. A loan of three and a half million dollars was wanted, but was withheld. Such is alleged to be the story of the crash in a nutshell.

"JAPANOPHOBES" AND THEIR METHODS.

The Japanophobes, who have lately become more than usually excited in the New York Press and one of its offshoots in Paris, would have us believe that Japan is about to protest against the campaign in favour of an alliance between the United States and China. This, it is to be feared, is a case of the wish fathering the thought. Nothing would suit the ends of these gentry better than what they predict, but there is no jot or tittle of evidence to lead to the supposition that Tokio is in any way disturbed by the agitation in the newspaper world of New York. Against the sensational statements which are being printed with no other object than the fomentation of anti-Japanese feeling, there is better ground for diplomatic protest, and if there is any foundation whatever for the report alluded to, which is not very likely, it is in this direction that it must be looked for.

THE OKLAHOMA MINE DISASTER.

Macalester, Oklahoma, August 28. Twenty-six bodies have been recovered from the Haileyville Coalmine. It is believed that 30 men in all have been suffocated. The fire started with a barrel of oil, the flames consuming the hoisting appliances, cutting off all escape. None of the men were burned; they were suffocated.

CHARGE AGAINST CANADIAN PACIFIC R. R.

Ottawa, August 29. Mr. Alfonso Verville, member of the Dominion Parliament, has lodged an accusation with the Government Railroad Commission against the Canadian Pacific R. R., charging this company with allowing trains to start insufficiently manned as regards personnel. The charge arises out of the strike on the part of engineers and firemen in C.P.R. employ.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS IN THE ALPS.

Zurich, August 28. A French mountaineering party on the Tête Noire, in the Mont Blanc district, were surprised on the side of the Glacier du Tour by an avalanche of ice and stones on Friday. The leader of the party and a Parisian tourist, who were in front, were caught and swept away; the rest of the party, who were about 20 yards behind, escaped.

Mdlle. Soubrier, a member of the Grand Opera company in Paris, fell from the Mauvais Pas, and