

A PEACEFUL COURSE

Germany's Attitude Before the Spanish War.

EXPOSE OF "BRITISH LEGEND"

Russia Said to Have Been the Power That Broke the European Combination—Unpublished Correspondence.

BERLIN, Feb. 5.—The German Foreign Office confirms the substantial accuracy of the published statement, which the Kreuz Zeitung printed last night, regarding Germany's course toward the United States during the war with Spain.

"Almost exactly four years ago the Spanish American war broke out. Germany was at that time a neutral power, and the same answer was given to the United States as to the middle of March, when the invitation reached Germany to participate in the intervention undertaken upon the initiative of the United States in the war with Spain.

"After that several attempts were made to win Germany or the Deutchland for intervention, in which the pope was especially active. The final result was that Dr. von Holleben, German ambassador to the United States, was instructed to join in the step proposed by Austria, only in case all the other five great powers participated.

"We are unable to state the details of how the united action came about. At any rate, the collective note was handed to the officials at Washington April 7, advising a peaceful settlement, the one signed by England, France, Italy, Austria, Russia and Germany. It was believed for a week that war would be averted. General Haug was ordered from Madrid to offer the Cuban insurgents an armistice, for Spain was resolved to give them far-reaching autonomy and to arrive at a settlement of the Spanish question through arbitration. Diplomatic circles, however, entertained no illusions, and when England, April 14, through her ambassador, proposed a new collective note, in which the powers signed orders from Madrid regarding America's armed intervention in Cuba as unjustifiable, the other ambassadors telegraphed their home governments, asking for instructions. The step followed through Germany's positive refusal. This gives, as it appears to us, a picture essentially different from the English statement. A fortnight later war was declared.

"Afterwards, in June and July, while the United States was making great progress in the Philippines, England tried to induce the Spanish Commission in England to ask for means to the Spanish war, and the powers were the American encroachment in the Pacific more annoying than to England.

"The above is the historical connection of the war. We hope that in giving the same we have thoroughly exposed the absurdity of the English legend."

Finally Decried in London.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—The Associated Press has the highest official authority for denying the story of the German Zettung, of Berlin, today, as to the part taken by Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador at Washington, in the Spanish-American war. The report, which was published in the Standard, and to the testimony of the American Peace Commissioners.

EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENCE.

Communications Between Spanish Government and Its Ambassador.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—The Associated Press has been put in possession of the following dispatches, which have never before been published, and which are unquestionably authentic. They comprise the circular letters of the Spanish government to its representatives at several of the European courts, and excerpts from the replies.

"The Minister of State, to His Majesty's Representatives abroad: Circular telegram, Madrid, March 25, 1898.—The Spanish representative in Washington has just reported that he is informed by the United States Government that on Monday next the representation of the American Commission on the Maine catastrophe will be brought before Congress without previously communicating the same to us or having the Spanish report communicated to them.

"For the reasons stated in my telegram of yesterday and in view of the fact of the submission of that matter to the judicial chamber, taking it out of the jurisdiction of the Executive power—a step which, in our opinion, may provoke a conflict between the two nations—the Spanish Government has decided to communicate to the Executive power the facts to that Government and to request its friendly offices to induce the President of the United States to maintain within the jurisdiction of the Executive everything bearing on the questions of differences with Spain, in order to bring them to a honorable settlement. And so convinced is Spain that reason is with her and that she is acting with prudence, that if the above mentioned result is not attained, she does not hesitate to ask the advice of the great powers and in the last term their arbitration for the settlement of the difficulties now pending and those which may arise in the future, and she is sure that the Spanish Nation wishes to preserve, as far as compatible with her honor and the integrity of her territory; this not only for her own sake, but also for the consequences which the war, once begun, might have for the other countries of Europe and America. You will read this telegram to the Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Reply from Ambassador Castillo: "Paris, March 15, 1898.—This afternoon I have had a long conference with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I told him that the crisis has reached its highest point and demands rapid action. I thought that, besides actively co-operating to obtain European concert, the most efficacious thing in these moments would be that France should address England, invoking the traditions of international politics regarding Cuba from the beginning of the century, and proposing that both nations act in common with a view to peace. The Minister for Foreign Affairs accepted this invitation in principle, and asked me to give him time to think and to submit the matter to the Council of Ministers.

From the Spanish Ambassador at the Holy See: "Rome, March 25, 1898.—I have communicated to Cardinal Rampolla your telegram of last night regarding the declaration of the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States. His Eminence approves of the answer which you intend to give the American Government; praises the calmness and moderation of our government, and recommends that we endeavor to induce the European Cabinets to use their influence in Washington to avoid a war. He will inform the pope of my manifestations, and assures me we have the affection of the holy see.

NO MATTER OF SENTIMENT

SALISBURY DISCUSSES THE RECENT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Refers to the Dutch Note in a Tone of Flippancy—England Decries of Flippancy—England Decries of Flippancy of Peace.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Lord Salisbury, the Premier, unveiled a life-sized marble statue of the late Queen Victoria at the Junior Constitutional Club tonight.

Speaking at a dinner after the unveiling, the Premier referred to the recent Dutch note in a tone, for him, of unusual flippancy. He said that doubtless some of his auditors thought it a bit of luck to catch a Cabinet Minister and extract from him some information concerning that abortive crisis which had lately filled the columns in the newspapers. He doubted, however, if they would extract much.

"It was clear that the Dutch," said Lord Salisbury, "had no authorization from our enemies on the Continent, since Dewet had, and three wagons of ammunition, 20 horses and 100 mules. The Boer casualties were five men killed, six wounded and 27 men captured. Among the killed was Field Cornet Wessels. Among the prisoners were Captain Muller of the Staats Artillery. The enemy was scattered. Our casualties were slight.

"The National Scouts, near Middleburg (Cape Colony) captured 13 prisoners. "Flumer, near Amersfoort (Transvaal), captured seven prisoners and 500 head of cattle.

"General Gilbert Hamilton captured 32 prisoners."

De La Rey's Commando Surprised.

LONDON, Feb. 5.—Lord Kitchener has sent the following message from Pretoria: "Major Leader's force surprised De La Rey's commando, killing seven and capturing 131. The British casualties were slight, no British being killed."

Boer Delegates Give It Up.

THE HAGUE, Feb. 4.—As an outcome of the conference held here, the Boer delegates have issued a communique thanking the Dutch Government for its efforts toward bringing about peace in South Africa, and denying the British statement that they have had no instructions from South Africa since March.

"These powers are as broad as language can make them, and authorize the Northern Securities Company, controlling the stock of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroad Companies and thus exercise all the powers and privileges of ownership and control, but specifically empower the corporation to do any acts or things designed to enhance the value of the stock of the companies mentioned, which, of course, includes the right to increase freight rates, directly or to change the classification of freight so as to increase the rates.

"I deemed it wise to call a conference of the Governors and Attorney-General of the States, in order that such method of procedure might be adopted as would be uniform. This conference was held at Helena, Mont., on the 20th inst. The Governors and Attorneys-General not only of our state, but of Montana, South Dakota and Idaho, and the Attorney-General of Washington. The Governor of the last named State, however, was unable to attend, owing to this fact, his successor, Governor McBride, was unable to attend. Governor McBride has since, however, in a published writing, expressing the attention of the people of his state to the dangers threatened by the consolidation of these two companies.

"The conference was harmonious throughout, and the official representatives of the various states were wholly in sympathy with the action of this state and its determination to oppose this consolidation, is shown by the resolutions which were unanimously adopted. It was determined, owing to the importance of the case, and for the purpose of getting the matter disposed of at an early date, it was possible, to bring the case before the Supreme Court of the United States in the first instance."

He recalled the argument before that court on January 27, and added: "What the court will be it is difficult to foretell, but it does not seem possible that a New Jersey corporation, no matter what its capitalization, will be permitted to hold the laws of the sovereign State of Minnesota. If the final decision should be against the state, the battle is not then lost. There is one remedy that never fails, and which is more supreme even than the Supreme Court. I quote the words of Judge Brewer in an address made at the bi-centennial of Yale College, in which he said, in speaking of rights for the coming season, at the great court of public opinion, whose decrees are irresistible. In that court every man is counsel and every man is judge.

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FUNDS TO FIGHT MERGER

GOVERNOR VAN SANT ASKS FOR AN APPROPRIATION.

His Message to the Minnesota Legislature—Commends Attorney-General Douglas' Efforts.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 5.—Governor Van Sant today read his message to the Legislature. After reciting the occasion for the extra session, he said he desired to secure a revision of the somewhat mixed tax laws of the state, he urged that immediate action be taken looking to the passage of laws suggested by the commission, with such amendments as may be deemed wise.

"At this time I desire to inform the Legislature of the fact that the Northern Securities Company, of New Jersey, believing that this corporation was organized for the purpose of evading and violating the laws of Minnesota, controlling the properties of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific companies, which companies run parallel and are competing lines of railway, with the state I requested Attorney-General Douglas to bring suit in the name of the state, to prevent such consolidation."

"I quote the articles of incorporation of the Northern Securities Company, and say: "These powers are as broad as language can make them, and authorize the Northern Securities Company, controlling the stock of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroad Companies and thus exercise all the powers and privileges of ownership and control, but specifically empower the corporation to do any acts or things designed to enhance the value of the stock of the companies mentioned, which, of course, includes the right to increase freight rates, directly or to change the classification of freight so as to increase the rates.

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