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THE VENEZUELAN CRISIS.

Troubles accumulate upon the head of President Castro. His campaign against Colombia fails, or at any rate does not succeed. He is confronted with a formidable revolt in his own land. He is, moreover, menaced with coercive action on the part of various European powers for the forcible collection of debts long due. This last mentioned is the latest and most serious of the Venezuelan autoeratic involvements. The claims of France, it is said, may be adjusted without trouble. But Germany is urgent and menacing. Her warships are gathering near Venezuelan ports, and she is evidently preparing a blockade if not an actual temporary seizure of the latter until such time as the satisfaction of her claims shall be assured. President Castro maintains a defiant front and may be so infatuated as to try to resist German force with force. It is pretty evident, however, that his chief reliance is upon external succor. He apparently hopes that the United States will intervene for his protection "under the Monroe doctrine," or that the large foreign commercial interests at Venezuelan ports will serve as a barrier against German aggression.

Such hopes are probably quite vain. The attitude of the United States is no doubt the decisive factor in the problem. If it does not intervene, no other country will. If it should intervene, no other would stand against it. At present its intentions are not disclosed, but its very proper massing of a naval force in the Caribbean superior to that of any other power shows that it is fully awake to the situation, and means to be prepared for anything that may occur. Neither are Germany's intentions disclosed, nor has the nature of the understanding between Germany and the United States been revealed. What is of supreme significance, however, is the fact—it seems to be a fact—that a satisfactory understanding between these two does exist. There is no reason to suppose that the United States will stand in the way of a proper satisfaction of whatever just claims Germany may have against Venezuela, and certainly none to fear that Germany will pursue measures offensive to the United States. Much sensational stuff, of interested inspiration, has been published about Germany's deep, dark and desperate designs upon the shores of the Caribbean hostile to the United States. But it should be obvious to even the most superficial intelligence that to quarrel with the United States, or to give this country just ground for complaint, is about the last thing in the world that Germany wants to do. It is not a question of one nation being afraid of the other. It is a question of international ties, of blood, of commerce and of interests in general being too strong to permit for a moment anything like serious estrangement.

As to the Monroe doctrine, which is invoked by some with more vociferation than discretion, we cannot perceive that it is in serious danger of involvement. That venerable and beneficent instrument forbids the colonization—forcibly, through conquest, of course—of the American continents by any European power. It does not appear that Germany has any thought of colonizing Venezuela. Also the doctrine forbids any intervention for the purpose of opposing or of controlling the destinies of the American republics. But we cannot recall that the collection of just debts has been judicially or judiciously declared to be oppression, or that the temporary blockade or occupation of a port has been wisely deemed a control of the destinies of the country. The Monroe doctrine is a charter of protection in the legitimate development of independent nationalities in the three Americas. It is not and never was a charter of international liberalism. It may properly be invoked for protec-

tion against conquest. It is not to be used as a screen for refractory and contumacious debtors. The fundamental question is, of course, whether the claims of Germany are just. It is to be assumed that the United States government has been amply assured upon that point. If they are just they should be paid. The Monroe doctrine grants no exception from liability for them. Nor does President Castro commend himself to sympathy in spending Venezuela's money in campaigns against Colombia (1900-01), or in using it to pay the country's debts.

NOT THE MONEY CENTER.

The Tacoma News says: According to some figures published in the New Year's Oregonian, the national bank deposits of Oregon touched the lowest mark after the panic of 1893 on February 28, 1894, when the total deposits in the national banks of that state amounted to \$8,213,711.78. September 28, 1901, the national bank deposits of Oregon amounted to \$12,567,924.99, the largest amount reported on any date since 1894, and a gain of \$4,354,213 or 53 per cent as compared with the lowest record of nearly seven and a half years before. According to the same table the lowest record of deposits in the national banks of Washington since the panic was on October 4, 1896, when the total amount on deposit in the national banks of that state was \$8,468,977.58. On the 28th of September 1891 the deposits in the national banks of Washington amounted to \$24,284,562.74, an increase in less than five years of \$17,815,585, or 73 per cent.

The national banks of Oregon have gained in deposits \$1,150,000 in seven and one-half years, while Washington's national banks have gained \$17,815,585 in deposits in five years. The gain in Oregon national bank deposits has been less than \$1,000,000 per year. In Washington the gain has been more than \$2,500,000 per year. These figures show the relative growth of business in the two states. In view of these figures which are taken from its columns, the Oregonian should revise the headline to its article on northwestern finances which contain the assertion: "Portland is the money center of the west." For Portland is not the money center of the west, nor of the north-west. It is the money center of Multnomah county and the state of Oregon. That's all.

Professor Emory R. Johnson, of the University of Pennsylvania, who was appointed by the late president as the commercial expert upon the Nicaragua canal commission, briefly described in a recent address, the reason his commission selected the Nicaragua route, and discarded the Darien and Panama routes. The canal route through the Isthmus of Darien, Professor Johnson said, the commission found too costly and impracticable, as tunnels would have to be constructed, and none large enough for the largest modern vessels could be properly ventilated; and even if it were possible, the cost of construction would be too great. As between the Panama and Nicaragua routes, the latter was selected by the commission, the expert said, because it entails less work to complete, has fewer engineering difficulties to overcome, costs considerably less and can be completed in a much shorter time. On the contrary, it is longer than the Panama route has more locks, is not so straight, and calls for concessions which the government must obtain from Costa Rican and Nicaraguan governments. By acquiring the Panama route, the construction would cost about \$45,000,000 less than the Nicaragua, but the difference would be made up in obtaining the concessions. The Nicaragua canal would require about four years to complete while the Panama canal would take ten. The former would be shorter by one day for Atlantic and Pacific coast commerce, but it would be longer for the South American and Asiatic trade.

Commenting the other day on the large decrease in marriages in Rochester in 1901, Miss Susan H. Anthony, the veteran advocate of woman suffrage, said: "I think one reason for the decrease is the increased intelligence of women. In the old days women were married at 16 and until they arrived at 30 their one aim seemed to be to give birth to a child every year or two. The heyday of their lives was spent in hopeless toil and worry, and they became old long before their time. What this world needs is fewer children and those better taken care of and better born and bred. A woman who marries a man and finds out that he is a drunkard or a wicked man is committing one of the worst sins against society if she continues to live with that

man. One of the greatest crimes is bringing children into the world under such circumstances. The woman should get a divorce and see to it that she does not rush into another such alliance."

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It is hoped that the Bulgarians are not contemplating any such absurdity as charging compound interest.

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During the absence in China of Ah Tong, senior partner and general manager of the Hop Hing Lung Company, the affairs of the firm will be managed by Ju Young, through whom all business must be transacted. HOY HING LUNG & CO. 378 Bond St., Astoria.

Charles Emory Smith will resume the occupation of putting a first-class newspaper into second-class mail—Mail and Express.

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If that New York professor can make good actors of bad ones by hypnotism, we shall be happy to send him a little list—"Chicago Journal."

A FIREMAN'S CLOSE CALL.

"I stuck to my engine, although every joint ached and every nerve was racked with pain," writes C. W. Bellamy, a locomotive fireman of Burlington, Iowa. "I was weak and pale, without any appetite and all run down. As I was about to give up, I got a bottle of Electric Bitters, and, after taking it, I felt as well as I ever did in my life." Weak, sickly, run down people always gain new life, strength and vigor from their use. Try them. Satisfaction guaranteed by Hart's Drugstore. Price 50 cents.

Spokane is repairing its saloonkeepers to close up their family entrances, and henceforth Spokane husbands will be compelled to go to saloons alone.—Salt Lake Tribune.

A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT.

"I was troubled for about seven years with my stomach and in bed half my time," says E. Demick, Somerville, Ind. "I spent about \$100 and never could get anything to help me until I tried Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. I have taken a few bottles and am entirely well." You don't live by what you eat, but by what you digest and assimilate. If your stomach doesn't digest your food you are really starving. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure does the stomach's work by digesting the food. You don't have to diet. Eat all you want. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure cures all stomach troubles. CHAS. ROGERS.

In Senator Platt's opinion, there is not so much the matter with Kansas as with young William Allen White of Emporia—Buffalo Express.

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Some people pretend to think the Roosevelt boys are extraordinary because they are fighters. Going upon this theory alone, we must admit that the country is full of extraordinary young ones—"Chicago Daily News."

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