

EL CONSTICIONAL

Accuses President of Trying to Create a Conflict.

RELATIONS ARE STRAINED

It Says "It is High Time For the American National Nation to Know President's Real Ambition, Whether That of a Friend or Dictator."

CARACAS, March 29.—The day following the publication of the diplomatic correspondence regarding the violation of the mail pouches of the U. S. Str. Tacoma, President Castro's official organ, El Consticional published an editorial accusing President Roosevelt of "searching from light incidents out of which to create a conflict with Venezuela," and of having a "premeditated plan."

It says: "Is it possible that Minister Russell could have written his note to our foreign office without having a preconceived and premeditated intention to attribute to a simple act, without responsibility to the post-office in La Guaira, intentions which do not exist and to prejudge the act as serious for the government of the U. S. is to have a premeditated plan which ought not to originate, because it cannot, from the actual American minister in Caracas W. W. Russell.

"From where then can originate the idea of searching for slight incidents to create a conflict with Venezuela? From the chief of this legation who is connected with the secretary of state in Washington and who in turn cannot but be under the direction of President Roosevelt."

Saying that it is high time for the American nation to know President Roosevelt's real ambition, whether that of a friend or a dictator, the editorial continues:

"If the inspiration of Roosevelt, president of the U. S. against the traditions which compose the union of the Americans among themselves has as a basis the abdication of the territorial sovereignty of this people or the nullity of their codes just because of the pretensions of a few citizens who do not and cannot represent the will of the American people, it is then high time that this horrible truth be known and that the people of the New world know whether in the government of the U. S. they have a friend or a capricious dictator. If the first, Venezuela is the most respectful of all to the dictates of honor and friendship; if the second it should be known for all that Venezuela assumes the pert-

ity of its sovereignty and at this late date it has not conceived the crime of the traitor to forge it under any form or concern."

A profound sensational has been caused in Caracas by its article for it is president Castro who speaks. Between the lines it can be seen that relations are almost at the breaking point, saying that it was necessary to conquer Venezuela if the decisions of its courts are not respected the article closed as follows:

"The question thus being placed on its true footing, it is not warships or cannon that can bring honorable solution before the eyes of the civilized world, before American traditions or even before that code also many times misinterpreted, which is called the Monroe doctrine. The dilemma resolves itself; either the U. S. will respect and support the decision of the mixed international tribunals and those of the tribunals of Venezuela or it will raise up once for all the flag of conquest in America. Then it will be that the people of the new world will know what the position is that they will have to occupy in the present and in the future."

SHIPS GUIDED INTO HARBORS

By the use of a system of electric lights beneath the water, recently patented by an American inventor, the navigation of dangerous harbors and waterways may be even safer at night than in the daytime.

The system consists of a waterproof submarine cable with numerous floating branches connected at suitable intervals, to which are attached incandescent electric lamps fitted with reflectors to concentrate the light into parallel beams. The whole system is designed to withstand the pressure and corrosive action of sea water, and the lamp reflectors are made sufficiently buoyant to maintain an upright position. The cable thus equipped is laid in position in the waterway to be lighted up and connected with a source of electric supply on shore.

A picture of the device in use appears in Popular Mechanics for April, which also points out how effectively it could be used to confuse an enemy in time of war.

THE COOK IN THE NAVY.

In order to prevent good food being spoiled by poor cooks, the naval department has recently established a school at Newport, R. I., for ships' cooks and bakers, says Popular Mechanics in its April number. It is the purpose to send to this school all men recruited as cooks or bakers. In addition, men already in the service, who want to become cooks, and can show some fitness, will be sent to the school in limited numbers.

The school will be equipped with electrically driven meat choppers, large bake ovens, coffee urns holding 50 gal., mechanical dishwashers, cold storage, dough-mixing machines, and several ranges, sufficient to prepare a meal for three or four hundred men. It will be on the same plan as the galley on board a battleship. The instruction will last for four or five months, and will be under the supervision of a chef, while a first-class ship's cook will be in charge of each galley.

THEATERS ON TRAINS.

A company is now being formed in Paris for the purpose of providing theater cars for all the important express trains on the continental lines. These railroad theaters are to have 60 seats, a little stage, and an orchestra consisting of a piano, a flute and a cornet. Passengers will book seats as they now engage tables in a dining car.—Popular Mechanics for April.

A CARD.

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WASHINGTON NOTES

Proposal to Create Tariff Commission to Gather Facts.

THE FINANCIAL LEGISLATION

The Progress Secretary Taft is Making With His Candidacy Admits of No Other Conclusion But That He Will be Nominated at Chicago

Washington, April 8.—The policy of the majority in Congress so far has been one of "masterly inactivity,"—no new policy for a dominant party, by the way, in the face of a national campaign. The President himself some time ago announced his acquiescence in the program of letting the tariff question go over until after the inauguration of a new administration, and the proposals now pending before Congress in this regard all relate to the creation of a tariff commission to gather facts and make recommendations to Congress. Senator La Follette and Senator Beveridge have both introduced bills looking to such an authorization by Congress. A counter proposal, originating in the Ways and Means committee of the House, which is exceedingly jealous of its constitutional prerogative of originating all revenue legislation, is that the committees in the House and Senate having to do with the framing of a tariff law, shall employ experts and proceed soon after the adjournment of Congress to the conduct of an investigation along these lines. It is not unlikely that in the end this is as radical a course as the majority in Congress will adopt. In the long run it may be quite as conducive to early action, as the legal power to originate such legislation lies in Congress, and the report of a commission of experts created without the sanction of the members of the Ways and Means committee in the House and the Finance committee in the Senate, would probably have short shrift at the hands of these two bodies.

That tariff revision, or tariff "adjustment," as one of Speaker Cannon's conventions out in Illinois puts it, will be had at the hands of the Republican party, if it shall be in power after the 4th of next March, and at the hands of both parties, if responsibility is divided after that time, is now accepted as a certainty. Republican leaders are apparently agreed that there shall be a declaration in the Republican national platform in favor of tariff revision at a special session of Congress to be called immediately after the inauguration of the next President, should he be a Republican. As for the Democratic declaration on this subject, it is expected to hark back to the ringing pronouncement of the 1884 platform, and to call for readjustment or revision, but for complete reconstruction along revenue lines, with incidental protection.

As for financial legislation it still seems probable that the Aldrich bill, in one form or another,—perhaps quite another, after the House gets through with it,—will pass. No one claims for this bill that it is more than temporarily remedial, while Senator La Follette sees in the measure a surrender to "the interests" on the part of those responsible for framing it. Senator La Follette declares that the bill is directly in the interests of what he calls "the system," and that it is calculated to inure to the advantage of the hundred captains of finance, whom he names as being in control of the industrial situation, and not to the benefit of the masses who carried the real burden of the recent financial panic. What relation this attitude may bear to the rumored possibility of Senator La Follette's nomination for the presidency on the Independence League ticket, is an interesting subject for speculation. The report that Senator La Follette was being groomed by Mr. Hearst came from Senator Aldrich, immediately following a conference at the White House on the Aldrich bill, and the Wisconsin Senator in making rejoinder to the rumor, referred to the place of origin of the story with such a show of spirit as to start the political dopesters to work figuring out the exact relation of Senator La Follette to the next presidential campaign. It is stated that Senator La Follette, while reconciled to the second elective term proposal, is exceedingly hostile to the nomination of Taft, believing that he is too much in

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the favor of the financiers whose names the Senator read the other day as the real national board of directors, to be a candidate satisfactory to the radical wing of the party with which he affiliates.

Despite the hammering of the opposition the Taft managers continue confident, and are able to make arithmetical demonstration, which is at least satisfactory to them of the certainty of Secretary Taft's nomination for President on an early ballot: they agree that it must be on an early ballot or the success of the War Secretary will be seriously endangered. The success which the managers of the Taft campaign have had in attracting to the support of the Secretary's candidacy elements which were not long ago deemed hostile, and impossible of amalgamation with the Taft movement, is indicated by the flat-footed declaration of George B. Cox, of Cincinnati, who has just been in Washington, in favor of the Taft candidacy. In a statement given out here Mr. Cox said: "The progress Secretary Taft is making with his candidacy admits of no other conclusion but that he will be nominated and elected, and is indisputable evidence of his strength with the rank and file of the Republican party. The manner in which his candidacy appeals to the people demonstrates to my mind that they want him for the Presidential succession."

The conversion of Cox, who since the death of the late Matthew S. Quay, is perhaps the most conspicuous and successful "boss" in American politics, is looked upon as a piece of political fine work indicative of the shrewdness with which the political affairs of Secretary Taft are being managed. Less than eighteen months ago Secretary Taft made his famous speech at Akron, Ohio, denouncing the big Ohio boss and advising the people of Hamilton county. The advice was taken, resulting not only in the overthrow of Cox, but the election of a Democratic Governor in Ohio. This demonstrated to Cox the strength of the new wing of the party in Ohio, headed by Secretary Taft and his brother, Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati, and he was quite ready to make terms. A few months ago he began to soften toward the Taft candidacy and his identification with the Taft movement became complete. Cox was eulogized in a public address by Charles P. Taft, the Secretary's brother, as a "distinguished leader" of the party in Ohio.

At the recent Ohio State convention the Taft program went through without a hitch, and the terms of the working agreement between the Taft and Cox wings of the party became apparent when Cox and his friends named every important candidate on the State ticket, excepting the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The Toledo "Blade," heretofore a staunch Taft organ, and many other Republican newspapers in Ohio, are in revolt against what they are inclined to denounce as a "corrupt deal" but the Taft leaders in Ohio insist that arrangements of this kind are old in Ohio politics and are a legitimate part of the big game. In his interview here, Mr. Cox stated that the nominee dictated by him and his friends, are good men, and that they will not be withdrawn from the ticket. He scouts the idea that the labor vote will oppose Taft, but says that it will divide on party lines, as usual: he thinks, too, that the opposition of the

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BOND STREET

negro vote to the War Secretary has been greatly exaggerated.

It is also agreed that some exceedingly clever work has been done by some one in bringing about the changed attitude of the big men of the financial world toward the Taft candidacy. Originally lined up for Hughes, most of the financial big guns are now known to be in pretty close sympathy and accord with the Taft movement. To Myron T. Herlick, the Ohio ex-Governor, is given the credit for convincing Wall street that it was a choice between the re-

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election of Roosevelt and the nomination of Taft and the bulletin issued from the Taft headquarters recently, and later re-called, stated the facts when it said that these financiers were now convinced that under Secretary Taft as President, there would be considerable soft-pedaling in the reiteration of the President's policies.



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