

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

Last week brought out little of a sensational nature as regards the concentrating of United States troops in Texas. The different bodies of the army set in motion by the order of the preceding week were rapidly brought into the camps at San Antonio and put into an effective condition for maneuvering on a large scale by brigades and divisions, while evident preparations also were made for guarding our southern border and thus to prevent any improper use of our territory by the insurgents in Mexico, or any illegal assistance to them from the American side of the line. A rather delicate question has arisen over the arrest of two young Americans who undoubtedly served in the army of insurrection. These young men are now imprisoned at Juarez; it is asserted by their friends that they were captured on American soil and practically kidnapped over the border; the Mexican authorities deny this, and claim that the young men were captured in Mexican territory. This raises an issue of fact and evidence, but there is little likelihood of strained relations between the two Governments, because both are anxious to deal with such subjects in a temperate and reasonable spirit. An indication of the increasing seriousness of the insurrection in Mexico has been the adoption by a permanent commission of the Mexican Congress of President Diaz's recommendation to suspend certain constitutional guarantees, and thus to make possible the immediate trial of men charged with the destruction of railway and telegraph lines, and those who burn or destroy property. The punishment of death may be applied after such an immediate trial. On their side, the *insurrectos* have issued a statement declaring that they are in arms for "a free Mexico and a fair election;" that President Diaz is not the real choice of the people; that the State of Chihuahua is practically in the hands of revolutionists, and that they expect to put ten thousand men in the field within a short time. *Per contra*, the Mexican Ambassador to Washington, Mr. de la Barra, thus describes the insurrection: "In the north, in a portion of the State of Chihuahua, some forces made up of malcontents who are against the local administration, without any military

organization, properly speaking, keep up a guerrilla warfare in which they will soon be subdued by force of arms, notwithstanding the advantages that kind of warfare gives them in a mountainous country." The reports as to actual operations are contradictory, but apparently the *insurrectos* are very active in cutting railway communications, while there have been no engagements of any consequence since that at Casas Grandes referred to last week. Reports that further orders for the concentration of United States troops in Texas were about to be issued have been contradicted, and, apparently at the request of the Mexican Government, our Navy Department has withdrawn from Mexican waters the war-ships which had been directed to cruise along the Mexican coast and enter Mexican ports. Mr. Roosevelt's comment before the Toltec Club in El Paso last week expresses American sentiment exactly: "All the United States wishes to see in Mexico is prosperity; we wish to see it have the prosperity that means material well-being, industrial success, coupled with order, justice, and independence."



A PROPHECIC SPEECH

Sir Edward Grey, in the absence of the Premier acting as the leader of the English Government, recently made a speech in the House of Commons which has attracted very wide attention, and which may ten years hence take its place as an event of the first importance. In a debate on the British naval programme he called attention to the remarkable progress toward arbitration, but declared that a long step must still be taken before arbitration will reduce the expenditures for armaments. He declared that he should perhaps have thought it unprofitable to mention arbitration had it not been for the fact that "twice within the last twelve months the President of the United States has sketched out a step in advance more momentous than any one thing that any statesman in his position has ventured to say before. His words are pregnant with very far-reaching consequences. He recently made the statement that he does not see personally any reason why matters of national honor

should not be referred to a court of arbitration; and he expressed the opinion that if the United States could negotiate a positive agreement with some other nation to abide by the adjudication of an international arbitral court on every question that could not be settled by negotiation, no matter what was involved, a long step forward would be taken." Sir Edward declared that, in his judgment, a statement of this kind made by a man of Mr. Taft's position should not go without response, and added: "We should be delighted to receive such a proposal. I should feel it something so far-reaching in its consequences that it required not only the signature of both Governments, but the deliberately decided sanction of Parliament. That I believe would be obtained.

. . . The great nations of the earth are in bondage, increasing bondage, and it is not impossible that in some of the future years they will discover, as individuals have discovered, that the law is a better remedy than force, and that, in all the time they have been in bondage, the prison door has been locked on the inside." These statements, made with great impressiveness of manner by the leader for the moment of the English Government, were received with applause. Mr. Balfour, speaking for the Unionists, declared that the party would cordially co-operate with the Government in such a reception of proposals looking to a permanent arbitration between the two Governments. The English press generally has spoken of Sir Edward's position with the warmest approval; the "Pall Mall Gazette" declared that it "carries with it the full strength of English feeling and influence;" and many of the leading newspapers on the Continent have risen above racial and party lines and have interpreted the speech of the English Secretary for Foreign Affairs as a pronouncement of extraordinary significance and hopefulness. It will be remembered that a similar treaty negotiated by Mr. Olney and Lord Pauncefoot came within four votes of receiving confirmation by the United States Senate. Since that time the education of both peoples has made rapid strides; and when the President puts his suggestion into definite form, he will undoubtedly have the people of the United States behind him.

CAMORRISTS IN CAGES

Viterbo is a town of nearly twenty thousand people, twenty-five miles north of Rome. It is an old Etrurian town surrounded by ancient walls and towers. But its reputation in history has just received the accentuation of a very up-to-date modernism, for it has been chosen as the place for trial of thirty-four members of the Camorra, the Italian politico-social secret society. The Camorra exists, it is alleged, apparently for the assassination of any who may provoke its displeasure. Among these was one Cuocolo. Him the Camorra murdered, it is claimed, and for the reason of his opposition to Alfano, the head of the organization. Cuocolo's wife was also murdered, because, so it is reported, had she been spared, knowing who her husband's murderers were, she would have denounced them. These crimes were revealed by an informer, one Abbatemaggio. Alfano and other Camorristi were arrested. The place of their trial is a former church. Like most in Italy, it is in the form of a cross. At the head of the cross, in the place once occupied by the choir, are the benches for the three judges, the prosecutor, and the clerk of the court. The left arm of the cross holds the seats for the jury; the right contains a great iron cage occupied by the thirty-four accused persons; and a smaller cage is occupied by Abbatemaggio, now isolated from his former associates. Between the two arms of the cross are the benches for the lawyers, and in the nave are seats for the witnesses. A place is also reserved for the public. The Italian Government's purpose in the trial is, we are sure, not only to punish murderers, but to rid Italy of an abominable secret organization. Yet so powerful is that organization that almost insurmountable difficulties arose regarding the selection of the jury. Though one was finally secured last week, the sense of intimidation will doubtless persist, influencing witnesses and jurors alike. The trial will be peculiarly interesting to Americans, for in the very first day's proceedings a report from the New York Police Department was read concerning the arrest of Alfano in America and what the American detectives had been able to discover concerning him and his associates. The report was signed