

THE TRIBUNE wishes you A Happy New Year and a prosperous one.

VENEZUELA.

At this remote distance the Venezuelan complications afford a most interesting topic for speculation. In this community are to be found subjects and citizens of nearly all the nations interested. So it can be imagined the camps of controversy that would spring up in the event of serious trouble among the great fleets in Caribbean waters.

The cablegram which stated that President Roosevelt had been chosen by the powers to arbitrate the whole matter, is proof positive that the naval demonstration of the allies was in good faith purposed to bring a slow debtor to time, rather than for the ulterior purpose of showing a left-handed contempt for the Monroe doctrine. The care, taken by Italy, to assure the United States upon this point, when she cast her lot with Germany and England; together with the fact that Washington and Berlin have had mutual understanding as to Venezuela for the past year, precludes the idea that a concert of Europe has sprung up at this time to test the flexibility or brittleness of the doctrine of Monroe.

The presence of England among the allies sending warships to the coast of America, will cause adverse comment among those who have been rejoicing in recent years over American-British good feeling. But the very fact that British ships were in the fleet that went to Caracas, should set at rest all fear concerning motives of Kaiser and King. Great Britain would not at this time lend herself either to an overt or covert attack upon a cardinal American doctrine, a doctrine, which Britons, in almost every way except officially, have conceded to be just and wholesome in the cause of civilization. If there is to be a war over the Monroe doctrine Great Britain will be an ally of the United States in support of it. Great Britain in this present episode has made official declaration that she does not desire to add more American territory.

Moreover, when the question was being discussed in the Senate, Senator Stewart, lately returned from a mission to Europe, stated that America should take the incident as a warning. His observations in European capitals led him to remark that "Our recent acquisition of territory had aroused the jealousy of all the European powers and that they might attack us at any time." He incidentally remarked that it would take us two decades yet to build up a navy strong enough to combat Great Britain.

These warnings are well and good but they do not expose grave dangers. The Monroe doctrine has been upheld when our navy was weaker than it is now, and when Europe was not only jealous, but angry.

A STRIKING conception of the progress of the world is presented in the laying of the Pacific Cable. Although the season was untoward and storms prevailed along the route of the Silvertown, the cable vessel, steamed over her course of 2000 miles like an excursion boat among picturesque islands in a quiet sea. Contrast with this quick cruise the many disheartening and costly failures attendant upon the efforts of Cyrus W. Field in laying the Atlantic Cable.

THE reports show a steadiness in the advanced price of raw sugar that is encouraging. With 4 cents practically assured for the next crop, B. F. Dillingham arrives from San Francisco with the statement that sugar men on the Coast venture to hope for a price of 5 cents.

THE proceedings in the United States Senate at the time Senator Burton sought to have Chinese permitted to enter Hawaii are printed in part on another page of the TRIBUNE. The comment of Senators from both North and South shows how an exception to a general rule is looked upon in America. The only thing to be done under such circumstances is to prove good faith in every statement made and to marshal cogent reasons in support of the exception. Senator Burton was swimming up stream but he made headway.

THE people of Hilo owning property and interested in the development and growth of the city should not forget that they will have a chance to give the Hilo-Kohala railroad scheme a boost on the road to realization. The horoscope of the New Year is big with possibilities, if Hilo does the right thing by this enterprise.

HAS anybody heard of the late Talc - Asbestos - Bagasse - Cane - top paper mill promoter?

A COMMUNICATION.

EDITOR HILO TRIBUNE:—Permit a reader to express his hearty agreement with your editorial last week regarding the attitude of congress toward Hawaii, particularly with reference to the industrial or economic needs of the islands. There has been much talk about Americanizing Hawaii. No man in the Territory, no matter from what country he came, had reason to fear the results of annexation to the United States providing Hawaiian problems were dealt with by Congress and the president in the same prompt generous and intelligent spirit with which they have met all political and economical questions in the past.

The Americanization of Hawaii so far has been in name only. The adjustment of local laws to conform with American ideas of justice has been opposed at every turn by the men in Hawaii who were loudest for annexation. The local administration of Hawaiian affairs goes on as before cumbered with effete relics of a discarded past.

On top of this change of front on the part of the original Annexation party, comes the lately enunciated principle that laws good for various sections of the United States, must be good for Hawaii regardless of difference in industrial and economic conditions.

So far, there has been a fundamental antagonism between the two political factions in Hawaii, that I have not yet seen pointed out. It is this: One faction opposes a republican form of local government and asks for special congressional legislation based on our peculiar industrial and economic conditions. The other faction has rightly clamored for the advent of republican forms in local affairs. But it has insisted that regardless of the fate of our sugar industry, we must submit to labor laws made for San Francisco and Pennsylvania.

Both of these wings of opinion are irrational and unpatriotic. The contentions between the two factions are responsible for the stagnation that has followed annexation. If the lately arrived Americans could realize that to ask for laws that will preserve our industries, is not a reflection on our patriotism, it would be better for them and the Islands. If the old timer could welcome republican local government as he welcomed the flag he would go far toward securing more generous congressional treatment in labor legislation.

Yours, Etc.

THE presence in Hilo of T. Thomas Fortune, the renowned leader of the negro race and the personal representative of President Roosevelt will interest all concerned in the labor problems of the Islands. Mr. Fortune believes his people will prosper here and satisfy the demands of the situation.

The people miss the excellent concerts of the Hilo Band. The rainy weather of the past few weeks is chargeable with this lack of music. With clear weather there will be some new pieces introduced at an early date.

HILO HELD UP.

Bids Received for Two Steel Bridges in Hilo.

Honolulu, Dec 30.—The Hilo waterworks system is held up because of the failure of former Superintendent Boyd to secure a site for the reservoir at the time the project was first launched. When the bids were called for by Superintendent Cooper a few months ago it was in conformity with plans submitted and approved by Mr. Boyd some time previous, but now it has been discovered that the site for the proposed reservoir, though on government land, is encumbered by twenty year leases.

It was intended to build the reservoir on the plains of Pihonua, a large tract of land above Hilo, which was easily accessible from the springs, and which, it is agreed, was the best possible site for the proposed reservoir. The bids were called for and received, with the understanding that the reservoir was to be dug out of the soft volcanic rock of Pihonua, and it was with a good deal of surprise that it was learned, after the contract had been virtually let, that the government had leased the land where it was proposed to build the reservoir. The land is owned by the government, but is leased to Colonel Baker, who in turn has sub-leased it to a Mr. Turner. Attempts to buy the leases from Turner have been met with a price which was considered exorbitant by Superintendent Cooper, and the Pihonua site has been abandoned.

Mr. Cooper will decide upon the site for the reservoir upon his visit to Hilo next month, and has several places in view upon which it is expected the bids now made will stand.

The island of Hawaii seems to be getting the greatest share of the improvements now going on in the Territory. Saturday an \$8,000 contract was let for the road in Kona, and yesterday bids were opened for the construction of two steel bridges in the vicinity of Hilo, whose aggregate cost will be in the neighborhood of \$17,000.

TRYING TO CONNECT.

Cable Ship is tossed by Wind and Waves at Honolulu.

Honolulu Dec. 29.—At any minute now Honolulu may be in communication with San Francisco, for the cable-ship Silvertown is standing off from Diamond Head, in all probability looking for the end of the cable which was buoyed some thirty-two mile off this port on Friday morning last, previous to the entrance of the Silvertown into port.

At about 10 o'clock the Silvertown hoisted her anchor aboard and was soon heading away for Diamond Head paying out cable as she went, finishing up the shore end and then beginning again on the deep-sea cable. There was no appearance of ostentation whatever. The people aboard went about their work so quietly that the great majority of people who live in plain view of the place where she was anchored did not know what the Silvertown was about, and so far as the city people are concerned, they were sublimely ignorant.

When the Silvertown was abreast of Diamond Head and between four and five miles off, she was seen to drop a large iron buoy overboard and on examination of the float through the glasses, it was seen that there was a blue flag with a white center floating above. This in the code is "P." The Silvertown had simply cut off her deep-sea cable and was seen to stand off from Diamond Head in the direction of the place where the cable end was buoyed on Friday morning.

There can be no guess made just when Honolulu and San Francisco will be in communication, but in all probability, it will be sometime late this afternoon.

Honolulu Dec. 30.—The Silvertown returned last night unable to splice the cable owing to rough weather.

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