

that will rank with any state paper issued by any administration."

Voices (D.) of Indiana said: "I indicate every word of the message. It strikes the right key and will meet with a sympathetic response in the heart of every American."

PERKINS NOT PLEASSED.

Says There Is an Unpleasant Sting in the Message.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17.—At last the administration has made public its foreign policy. The message of the President on the Venezuelan dispute between Great Britain and the United States was read to the Senate and House to-day and created the liveliest interest, not to say excitement.

The message was well received by members of both parties in both the Senate and the House. Republicans and Democrats alike applauded its reading at both ends of the Capitol. The approval, however, has not continued to be universal. Some dissatisfaction has been manifested. This view of the message was expressed by Senator Perkins, who said to a CALL correspondent to-night:

"When I heard the paper read I was as much enthusiastic as any of my neighbors in the Senate chamber. The message abounded in patriotic utterances, and seemed to meet every requirement of the situation. But little by little, as I pondered over it, it gradually dawned on me that there was a sting in it which spoiled its whole effect. It is easy to see that in recommending the appointment of a commission to investigate the boundary controversy, the President seeks to temporize and delay matters until after the elections. The commission would go to Venezuela, then to London, and at the end of twelve months, or after the Presidential election, they would make their report. By that time the responsibility might devolve upon another President's shoulders, but Cleveland would have benefited in public estimation, and would close his career and go down in history as 'Grover the Great,' or perhaps he is seeking his own re-election. Time alone will tell, but, nevertheless, his message of to-day, while it sounds brave and patriotic, is only a bluff, which he hopes will not be 'called' before the election."

COMMENT OF THE PRESS.

"Let the Good Work Go On," Says the New York Sun.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The New York papers comment as follows:

The Sun: Mr. Cleveland has borrowed a new uniform, but all the same it is the American uniform and the country will follow the man who wears it. For the Monroe doctrine, as enunciated in the President's message, except for a line or two that we need not consider here, the people of the United States are solid and enthusiastic. And the continuation of this interesting and important business by the administration will be watched and sustained with an unflinching spirit of pride and determination to uphold the interests of the United States. Let the good work go on.

The Times: As it stands to-day in the message of the President it is a clear, grave assertion that the United States will see justice done, neither asking more nor accepting less, to any independent state on this continent. To that principle, soon or late, we believe Great Britain will assent. By that principle in any event, the American nation will stand.

The Tribune: We do not know that any "jingo" Senator or Representative has "reaffirmed the Monroe doctrine" in more direct and unmistakable terms. The President has spoken straightforward, manly words, which are worthy of and which we believe will command the approval and enthusiastic support of the people of the United States.

The Herald: "Both in this country and Great Britain the people and their official representatives will have an opportunity to rest soberly and patriotically on the message fraught with such grave consequences to both nations. Menacing as is the aspect which affairs have now assumed, it is to be hoped that the issue may be settled without disturbing the friendly relations existing between the two countries."

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 17.—The Inter-Ocean (R.) says:

"The President's message clearly indicates a determination for the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine. If the territory in dispute belongs of right to a sister republic, then the United States is bound for the protection of its own form of government against foreign invasions or intrigues to prevent new occupation or invasion of any part of this continent by an European power."

The Times-Herald (Independent): "The Nation is with the President. It makes no difference to us whether or not any foreign Government may decline to admit the validity of the Monroe doctrine. We are not capable of the puerility of entreating recognition of it as a favor. We are prepared to demonstrate its validity with the entire strength of a sovereign people. Its assertion and enforcement are necessary to our place in the world."

The Record (Independent): In a message which, for force and directness, has not been surpassed by any of Mr. Cleveland's previous state papers, the President has reaffirmed the Monroe doctrine and struck the keynote of the Venezuelan controversy with an emphasis which will ring with startling effect in the ears of the British Ministry. If Congress remains steadfast in support of the President's policy the effect of this message will be the final establishment of the Monroe doctrine beyond any nation's power to dispute.

The Tribune (Republican): To Lord Salisbury's claim President Cleveland makes a strong, dignified and able reply, the meaning of which is that this country will "stand pat"—that is, that Congress should proceed to enforce the principle of the Monroe doctrine as a matter of vital concern to the people and to the safety of the Government. There need be no fear that this Republican Congress will not stand by the President in his patriotic American attitude. If Great Britain refuses to accept the Monroe doctrine let her bring on her heels. She will find Uncle Sam ready to receive them.

AS AMERICANS HOPED.

Comment of the "Examiner" on the Message.

In an editorial under the caption, "The Issue Joined," the Examiner says: "President Cleveland has taken precisely the stand in his Venezuelan message which Americans who are not jingoes, but who are keenly alive to the honor, the interests and the traditions of their country, hoped he would take. He does not bluster nor threaten, but he lays down quite unmistakably the established policy of the United States, and calls upon Congress to assist in its enforcement. He proposes a perfectly plain and logical plan of action. As every one depends upon the merits of the boundary dispute, he proposes that a commission be appointed to

decide exactly what those merits are, and that the report of this commission shall form the basis for the further action of the United States.

"Whatever we may think about the spirit in which England has dealt with this question, we do not desire or intend to do her the least injustice. If she can substantiate her claims there is nothing for us to do in Venezuela. On the other hand, if the Venezuelan contention be correct, there has been a flagrant British encroachment upon the soil of a friendly republic. We have tried to have this issue of fact determined by impartial arbitration. Venezuela has consented to that, but England has not. The question must be settled in some way in order that we may know how to act, and since the British Government refuses to submit to arbitration there is nothing left for us but to investigate it for ourselves.

"We shall approach this work without prejudging the result in any way. If we find that the British are right we shall be perfectly willing to recognize the fact, and to leave them to maintain their position by any means they choose. If we find that the Venezuelans are right, we shall be confronted with the grave duty of upholding the Monroe doctrine against what will then be a manifest violation of its letter and spirit, and we shall not hesitate as to our course of duty. The attitude of England has forced us to assume the role of arbitrators, which we should have preferred to see filled by an international tribunal, and we must play the part with judicial fairness.

"In deciding upon the merits of the case it will be proper for us to take into consideration the progress of settlement as well as the claims based on original discovery. During the negotiations of the British and American Peace Commissioners at Ghent, in 1814, the British representatives insisted that the United States should abandon a great part of its most valuable territory, bordering on the lakes, to the Indians. When asked what would become of the 100,000 American citizens then settled in that region they responded, 'Of course, they must shift for themselves.'

"We do not adopt this harsh position. If any part of the disputed territory be permanently settled by British colonists, and not occupied by Venezuelans, that fact ought to have weight in deciding upon the proper boundary line. The English arguments make much of the alleged fact that there are 40,000 British subjects west of the Essequibo, and the casual reader might gather the impression that they were all Englishmen. The truth is, however, that there are not that many Europeans in the entire colony of British Guiana, disputed territory and all. Of the total population of the colony in 1891, amounting to 238,328, there were 2533 born in Europe, 96,615 Africans, 105,405 East Indians, mainly coolies, and 3417 Chinese. The other 80,000 were miscellaneous natives of the colony. The composition of this interesting population is a consideration to be taken into account when we are asked whether we intend to favor 'Anglo-Saxon civilization or Spanish-American barbarism.'

LOYALTY OF IRISHMEN.

National Alliance Ready to Put an Army in the Field.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Dec. 17.—The following manifesto has been issued by the executive council of the Irish National Alliance of America and a copy of it sent to President Cleveland:

"To the members of the Irish National Alliance and the American public: It has been publicly charged that the policy of the Irish National Alliance is an Irish policy of hatred to England, and is therefore contrary to the interests of America. This calls into question the loyalty to the republic of our people.

"We declare it incontrovertible that no more bitter, more perfidious or more unrelenting enemy than Great Britain to the United States has ever existed. England has been the perpetual foe of American liberty and republican institutions.

"Imbued with this conviction and seeing that Great Britain has avowed her intention to trample upon the Monroe doctrine by her attempt to rob Venezuela of her territory, and has dared to violate the integrity of our territory in Alaska, we hereby offer, as a proof of our loyalty and devotion to the country of which we are citizens, to place at the disposal of the President of the United States without delay 100,000 soldiers, as brave as have ever shouldered a rifle and every man of whom is a believer in the principles and teachings of the Irish National Alliance.

"Our army, which is now organized, is ready to serve the American Republic in any part of this continent, and should the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine need its aid, will, either on Irish soil or English ground, establish the fact that the intrepidity, the valor and the determination of the Irish brigade will again prove the loyalty of Irishmen to the United States.

"We pray that the day may soon come when we, the exiles of our own land, shall assist in driving the foe to whom we bear undying hatred from Ireland. We remain, WILLIAM LYMAN, President, New York. JOHN P. SUTTON, Secretary, New York. P. V. FITZPATRICK, Treasurer, Chicago."

ABLE AND TIMELY.

That Is the Governor's Opinion of the Message.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., Dec. 17.—When questioned by a CALL representative as to the probable amount of armed resistance that could be put into the field in this State should war with England result on account of the Venezuela boundary dispute, Colonel Peeler, assistant adjutant-general, said:

"At the present time, under the reorganization, the State militia consists of a force not to exceed 5800 men."

These were fitted for instant service. It had been his observation that nearly 10 per cent of the National Guard changed its individuality every year. Should this prove correct there should be within the confines of the State at least 50,000 men who at some time had been connected with the National Guard and possessed some training in a military line. Other available volunteer forces were of an unknown quality, but the probability was that at least 50,000 more men would be available. In case of war the President issued a call for volunteers who were prorated among the States according to their military strength and population. These volunteers were merged directly into the regular army.

"The National Guard in time of war would consist of sixty-nine companies, would be armed and accoutered by the State, giving an available force of at least 7000 men. For the arming of a greater force the Government would be obliged to provide all equipments, and it would necessitate considerable time to drill them into available shape.

In speaking of the martial spirit of available California material Colonel Peeler said:

"There is no doubt in my mind that in a call to arms in case of war the martial spirit would be up in arms."

The following message was received in

this city from Governor Budd to-night:

"President Cleveland's message is able and timely. It voices the sentiment of our people and will have the indorsement of Congress. England will probably arbitrate. Whatever results, a clear interpretation of the Monroe doctrine will be written in the international code. The stand taken by President Cleveland will challenge the admiration of the world."

READY FOR SERVICE.

War Vessels at Mare Island Available, if Required.

VALLEJO, CAL., Dec. 15.—The monitor Monadnock will be ready for service within the next three months, though quite a force of men are engaged putting in her gun carriages in the turrets. The guns are at the yard and will be put aboard as soon as possible. The machinery is in good working order. When she had her dock trial a few weeks ago every part of the machinery worked to perfection. It was found that the fire and engine-room was too close, therefore ventilators are now being run up through the wardroom and after cabin, to make it more comfortable in the fire-room. The cabins are complete with the exception of putting in the furniture, which is all made. All of her boats are ready and they are pronounced among the best that have been made at the yard. Equipment stores and outfits are ready and the magazine is complete.

If it were necessary the Monadnock could be made ready for service in less than the time mentioned, as many things could be completed after being commissioned. Her electric service will be the most modern aboard any of the new ships. The most of her armament of British and American guns is at the yard and ammunition is under tents on the wharf, but well protected from the weather.

The monitor Monterey is lying in the stream coaled, and with the exception of a few minor repairs could be away from the navy-yard in a few days' notice. Her complement of officers and men is complete and stores are on board.

The monitor Comanche is all ready for service, and could be placed in sea-going service within two weeks' time. She has two 15-inch Dahlgren guns in her turrets. She was docked a few months ago, but before going from the yard would again require docking and painting. If fitted with modern rifled-guns she would be equally as good as some of the later-made monitors.

The cruiser Boston is all ready for sea and on either Wednesday or Thursday the regular board of officers will inspect her. She is now considered to be one of the best cruisers afloat. Since being at the yard she has had a thorough overhauling. Officers and crew are aboard. The ship is lying in the stream, coaled and provisioned.

The Adams, a wooden ship, came out of the drydock to-day and will be ready to go on commission at any moment. The crew now on board of the Ranger is expected to go on board of the Adams. New heaters are being placed throughout the Adams preparatory to her proposed trip north. No officers have yet been assigned to the ship.

The Ranger is being stripped of all her running and standing rigging, spars have been sent down and everything is being taken out of her, preparatory to her going out of commission, which will be in a day or two. Extensive repairs are to be made to her.

The steel tug Unadilla will have her trial day after to-morrow and is expected to be in commission within another week or so.

Work has hardly yet been commenced on the Mohican, but she could be made available for duty in a few weeks, though she would not be considered in a fit condition for any extended service.

The flagship Hartford will not be ready for eighteen months to come. The Albatross is in drydock to-day and will be out in another week.

The old flagship Pensacola and the Swatara are lying dismantled in rotten rot. Both are of wood. The Swatara is of not much account, but the Pensacola could in three or four months' time be placed in commission and would then be practically as good as when she came in port a few years ago and was put out of commission.

GOVERNOR M'GRAW'S VIEWS.

Washington State Ready to Back Up the President.

SEATTLE, WASH., Dec. 17.—Governor John H. McGraw, who is in Seattle to-night, said that a patriotic American citizen he heartily concurred in all the President had to say on the Venezuela matter.

"The Englishman," Washington's chief executive remarked, referring to Minister Salisbury, "will no doubt have it very thoroughly impressed upon him that the Monroe doctrine is a part of the international code."

The Governor does not think there is any danger of the two great English-speaking nations going to war, but when questioned as to what assistance the young State of Washington would give and the condition of her National Guard, he said:

"We have fourteen companies of infantry and two troops of cavalry, made up of excellent material and fairly well equipped. The fourteen companies will average fifty men to a company, and under the law they may be increased to the maximum of 100 men. Under the law passed by the last Legislature I was compelled to muster out seven companies of infantry and two troops of cavalry. We would mobilize the full strength of the National Guard at any given point on Puget Sound within twenty-four hours."

Governor McGraw, however, referred respectfully to the almost defenseless condition of the Pacific Coast. He seemed to realize that a foreign navy could easily drive the people back from their own shores.

Federal Judge Cornelius H. Hanford in discussing the message said:

"I like the tone of the message and consider it an able and statesmanlike document. At this time it is invaluable as a plain, forcible assertion of the Monroe principle and a declaration of true American principles. I entertain not a particle of doubt but what the result will be a complete recognition and acquiescence in the principles of the Monroe doctrine by all European powers, probably without involving actual war, but since the chief executive is now fairly committed I feel that the country will not hesitate to go through war, if necessary, to obtain the results. It is true that the principles of the Monroe doctrine have never been promulgated authoritatively by any convention including European powers, but it has for its basis the declaration of our own Government, asserted by President Monroe and firmly supported by all succeeding administrations, that this Nation will act as a menace and an unfriendly neighbor to any encroachment upon the rights or territorial domain of any Nation on our side of the Atlantic by any European Government. European powers being thus notified of our position are bound to respect the same or assume the responsibility of driving us to use force to maintain it. The President's message to-day clearly and

firmly notifies Great Britain that she must yield assent to the Monroe doctrine rule unless she can destroy it by a victory in an appeal to arms."

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A General Feeling That War Would Be a Great Calamity.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 17.—Military organizations in this province comprise four companies of volunteer artillery, one battery at New Westminster, one at Vancouver and two at Victoria, aggregating not more than 400 men. In addition to this force there is a company of Royal engineers stationed at Victoria, having charge of the section of fortifications for the protection of that city.

No expression of opinion on Cleveland's message has yet appeared in the press. The general feeling, however, is that it would be a great calamity for the English-speaking world should Great Britain and the United States become embroiled, and that such a conflict would not doubt afford other powers some gratification, as being likely to weaken the two great Anglo-Saxon powers.

There are also many people who characterize the message as jingoism.

BRITISH AGGRESSIONS.

At Last the United States Has Called a Halt in Land-Grabbing.

San Francisco, at Least, Is Impregnable and Fighting Material Is Plentiful.

England has a fairly strong foothold in North America, and of late years has shown great activity in Central and South America. In keeping with the aggressive and colonizing spirit of her people, she has acquired many small strips of territory, and then by force and strategy extended the original possessions to acquire positions of great commercial and maritime importance.

The possessions in Venezuela were acquired from Holland in 1814. It is not clear that Holland had any title to the territory other than that of holding it by sufferance of Spain. It is clear, however, that Venezuela never by treaty or otherwise recognized Holland's right in the premises, but the country claimed was not of sufficient importance then to demand a renewal of treaty rights.

Gradually Great Britain encroached on Venezuelan territory, holding fast to every advantage gained, and now, in a grasping spirit, threatens to extend her boundaries so as to command the outlet of the Orinoco.

A writer well versed in British diplomatic tactics recently wrote for THE CALL this view of the case: "British diplomats, well trained in the history of colonial acquisitions and the art of letting time develop a small holding into a claim to an empire, have kept in view all these years the golden stream of wealth that would ultimately flow into her coffers could she but make good her foothold at the great mouth of the Orinoco and so control the commerce of the tributary regions."

In Alaska Great Britain is playing the same game that is being played in Venezuela. In Egypt and India the game is old, but England never loses a point in playing it.

President Cleveland in his message to Congress yesterday recommended that Commissioners of the United States should at once establish the boundary lines of Venezuela and Great Britain, and that this country sustain by force, if necessary, the decree of the Commissioners. England must acquiesce in this form of settlement or fight for her coveted territory in Venezuela.

The United States has gone too far to recede. The position of the Nation has been defined. Since President Grant notified the British Government that indemnity for property destroyed by the cruiser Alabama must be paid by Great Britain, no declaration more pointed has come from Washington, which Cleveland has just transmitted to Congress.

In view of these facts, the fighting resources of the United States must constitute an interesting topic of inquiry.

The American soldier is not surpassed anywhere in the world for bravery, skill, intelligence and endurance. The same can be said of the men of the American navy. In point of conflict where numbers and guns are equal the superior alertness of the American is a great advantage. As fighters they stood a greater percentage of killing at either Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chickamauga or Gettysburg than the British troops encountered at Waterloo. There were many examples of Americans standing in line and practically fighting a battle of three days' duration. On the sea they fight as long as the ship floats and then go down with the flag flying.

There is just as good material in the American navy to-day as that which won the conflicts which made the names of Paul Jones, Perry and Farragut imperishable.

The chances are that in case of war the Canadian militia might make the first dash and get into New York State before our small standing army and widely scattered regiments of the National Guard could be concentrated on the boundary, but the immense preponderance of American strength on land would soon repel the militia raids and transfer the combats to Canadian soil. Our end of the fight out here on the Pacific Coast could be handled in fine style by the National Guard regiments of California, Oregon and Washington, sustained by the enlistment of additional regiments. In case of emergency, California could send 70,000 men to British Columbia. Iowa, during the war of 1861-65, with less population than California has now, sent 70,000 soldiers to the front. In a war with Great Britain Iowa would readily raise 70,000 men in seventy hours.

There is much talk in England and some in this country about the great British harbor and naval station at Esquimalt from which her Majesty's fleet could emerge and place San Francisco under tribute. It is true that vast sums of money have been expended to make Esquimalt a formidable naval station, but the observation of American officers is to the effect that it could be taken by land without much opposition. The chances of war are that Americans would get to Esquimalt before the British fleet got to San Francisco.

Captain Runcie of the United States army visited that country some time ago and what he saw and heard convinced him that Esquimalt was not the great stronghold people imagine it to be.

On the sea England is much stronger than the United States, but she has such great responsibilities in many parts of the world that she could not concentrate her fleets at once in our waters. She now has on the Pacific station the Royal Arthur (flagship), a first class protected cruiser;

the Satellite, Wild Swan, Hyacinth, Nymph and Liffey.

The Pacific squadron of the American navy consists of the Philadelphia, Monterey, Boston, Marion, Bennington, Alert and Ranger. The monitor Monadnock is available. The battle-ship Oregon can be ready for action in ninety days. The cruiser Baltimore will be here within a month. Perhaps the British could assemble a fleet much more formidable than ours, but Great Britain would require a very powerful squadron to undertake the task of passing the 12-inch rifled guns, the 10-inch guns, the dynamite guns and mortar batteries which command the channel and the approach to the Golden Gate.

It is quite common talk that a fleet of modern warships could stand off five miles from the Cliff House and shell San Francisco into ashes. No doubt shells could be thrown into the City, but San Francisco would not be laid under tribute until the enemy's fleet passed the channel forts and defeated the Monterey, Monadnock and other harbor defense vessels. It is presumed that the people of San Francisco have the average pluck of Americans, and would not be ready to surrender on the signal of an exploding shell. The inhabitants of Vicksburg were shelled day and night from May 19 to July 4, 1863. Gunboats, mortars and land batteries rained shells upon the City, yet the town was not laid in ashes. A hostile fleet approaching within effective range for bombarding the City would be exposed to the guns on the bluff at Fort Point.

The Asiatic squadron of our navy consists of the Charleston, Detroit, Concord, Yorktown, Monocacy, Machias and Petrel. The Olympia, one of the best fighting cruisers of the new navy, has just joined that squadron, relieving the Baltimore and becoming the flagship of Commodore F. V. McNear.

The South Atlantic squadron consists of the Newark (flagship), Castine and Yantic. The European squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral T. O. Selfridge, consists of the San Francisco (flagship), Minneapolis, New York and Columbia.

The North Atlantic squadron, consisting of the Cincinnati, Raleigh and Montgomery, will in a short time be re-enforced by the battle-ships Maine and Texas.

The new ships of the United States navy are equipped with the most effective guns ever made. In point of speed and fighting equipment they cannot be surpassed. In case of emergency the fleet can be re-enforced in a short time by the Indiana, Iowa and Oregon.

As a naval power England ranks first in point of ships. She has 274 warships in service, not including torpedo-boats, and has forty-two vessels under construction, of which ten are battle-ships.

No doubt the prospects of war will greatly stimulate the building and equipment of ships at the navy-yards of the United States. What this country can do when events require all the resources which the Nation can command was illustrated during the Civil war. Now, with vastly more wealth and greater facilities, torpedo craft and defense vessels of a formidable character could be put afloat in a short period of time. In the beginning of a contest with Great Britain some reverses might occur, but as the war progressed and our energies were invoked the spirit of American determination to "even up affairs" with Great Britain would accomplish wonders in navy building and army organization.

SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR.

Colonel Mendell Holds That the Defenses Are Ample.

Of all the American coast cities San Francisco is probably the best prepared to resist a naval demonstration and attack. How successful the defense would be is, of course, a matter of conjecture, though the opinion prevails in many circles that it would require a great many more vessels than England now has in her Pacific squadron to make even an impression.

New York is probably better defended, so far as the actual number of guns and other armament employed is concerned, but the geographical situation is not nearly so favorable. During the last two or three years some pretense at putting Boston and Portland in proper condition to repel an attack have been made, but so little has been accomplished that they would, perforce, fall easy victims to a fleet of any size. As for the Southern cities they are practically defenseless.

New Orleans, Charleston, Pensacola and Savannah would be taken without much resistance, though the last-named two cities could be placed in splendid condition in six months' time.

Colonel George H. Mendell, recently retired from the Government service, and to whom must be given much of the credit for San Francisco's defenses, from an engineering standpoint, treats lightly the prospect of a war with England. He does not believe that country would undertake to fight America at present, but if such a thing should happen he believes that San Francisco is well able to withstand any attack a British fleet might make, even supposing the entire Pacific squadron be concentrated at this point.

"I am not prepared to believe," he said last night, "that England would do such an utterly foolish thing as to engage in a war with America at the present time. Hoping, however, that such a thing did take place, I think I may safely say

that San Francisco is not in the least danger. True, our defenses are not by any means complete, yet on the other hand I must be remembered that this port is a long way from England's nearest naval station, and consequently it would be hazardous on her part to concentrate any great number of vessels here on a mere venture.

"I do not care to express a positive opinion as to the length of time required to complete the system of harbor defense as contemplated by the War Department, though I believe that it could be done in six months. In fact with men and money the harbor could be placed in sixty days' time in such condition as to defy any reasonable force which might be brought against us.

"As for the defense at Lime Point and the completion of the battery of disappearing 10-inch guns near Fort Point, that is mere matter of rapid transit, combined with quick work on the part of the engineers. Under pressure the thing might be done in thirty days. I think the dynamite guns recently erected will do all that is required and expected of them. The Fifth Artillery of Colonel Graham's regiment is perfectly trained and fully understands the workings of heavy guns.

"As I before remarked, there is little fear of a war with England. Should the unexpected happen, however, San Francisco is the last place to expect trouble. England's first and probably only point of attack on the Pacific Coast would be the Puget Sound cities. Tacoma, Seattle, Port Townsend, Everett, Whatcom, Port Angeles and Fairhaven are utterly defenseless. It follows as a matter of course that they would be the first to receive attention, and the warning received from such a demonstration would give the Government ample time to do all for San Francisco that would be required."

AMERICA'S NAVY.

Irving M. Scott Presents His Views as to Its Readiness.

Irving M. Scott, vice-president and general manager of the Union Iron Works, talked last night of the condition of the American navy and expressed the belief that, although the present strength was not great, there could be extemporized a sufficient fleet to enable the United States to maintain the prestige of the flag. Continuing, he gave in detail the number of vessels now ready and those which could be readily prepared for war, saying:

"We can count on thirty-four now ready, besides six turreted monitors, six gunboats and two battle-ships now being built, making a total of forty-eight. The thirty-four are the following: Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, Newark, San Francisco, Olympia, Monterey, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, Minneapolis, Columbia, New York, Iowa, Brooklyn, Texas, Maine, Yorktown, Marblehead, Cincinnati, Raleigh, Machias, Castine, Concord, Bennington, Petrel, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta, Dolphin, Vesuvius, Cushing, Ericsson and Katahdin.

"Then there are thirteen of the old Ericsson monitors that could be put in preparation by having their turret arrangements removed and two 8-inch appearing and disappearing guns placed in a barbette in the hold, making them very formidable vessels in the defense of our bays and harbors. They draw about twelve feet of water and have a speed of eight knots. They are the Ajax, Canonicus, Mahopac, Manhattan, Wyandotte, Comanche, Catskill, Jason, Lehigh, Montauk, Nahant, Nantucket and Passaic.

"Five of those turreted vessels being completed just at the end of the civil war were never finished—the Miantonomah, Puritan, Terror, Monadnock and Amphitrite. They are similar to the Monterey and very powerful vessels.

"The Oregon could be extemporized for cruisers and commerce-destroyers at the New York, City of Paris, St. Louis and St. Paul. They would rank up to the top notch. It would require only the time necessary to furnish them with guns. I should think that within thirty days they could be put into shape. In addition to those I have mentioned there must be running in and out of New York to South American ports, and in and out of Philadelphia, Baltimore and San Francisco quite a large fleet of vessels, out of which some sort of fighting machines could be extemporized.

"The Union Iron Works has in course of construction two of the six gunboats I mentioned, which have not yet been named. The Oregon is awaiting her turret armor, and if the last piece of it shall be shipped on February 1, as we are informed, the Oregon will be ready about three months later, or ninety days from the date of the receipt of that shipment. She will then be in full condition to be turned over to the Government. Her guns are all here. Of the vessels we have built the Olympia is at Yokohama, the Monterey at Mare Island, the Charleston at Nagasaki and the San Francisco in the Bay of Marmosa."

"I think," he said, "it looks like an American in the chair at last. His message should be eminently satisfactory to the people. I think he shows forcibly and clearly the application of the Monroe doctrine to the Venezuela boundary question. Congress ought to back him up with money and everything needed to maintain the prestige of the American Government on the basis of the Monroe doctrine in its very conservative application."

NEW TO-DAY.



There'll be a whole lot of little fellows to hang up their Christmas stockings. Now don't disappoint 'em. A little suit is what you want to put in for him, or, what's more, a nice Ulster.

Our picture above shows an awfully clever Cheviot Ulster in handsome colorings; also some clever Tweeds; they're made with deep storm collar, nice worsted lining, cut very long; for lads between the ages of 5 and 15, at

\$3.50.



About the prettiest little suit we know for little fellows between the ages of 3 and 10 is a Reefy Suit with braid on collar, and three pocket flaps in blue; awfully sweet and jaunty looking.

Some very clever ideas in cheviots and tweeds, in bright colors, and a glorious pick it is at

\$2.50.



If things keep up like they have been and the rush in our Juvenile Department becomes unabated very few will be left of those pretty Blue Cheviot Short Trouser Suits, and also those Fine Scotchies, at

\$2.50.

These are for boys between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and they're the biggest values the Big Store's offered since it's been open, and you know we dress 90 per cent of the boys in San Francisco.