



INTRIGUES OF GREAT POWERS.

Ferdinand's Conduct May Cause Russia to Rule Bulgaria.

SCHEMES FOR ALLIANCE.

When the Snow Melts the Czar Will Send an Army Corps Into Armenia.

ATTEMPTS TO PLACATE FRANCE.

Preliminaries on the Part of England to Gain Support to Answer Germany's Affront.

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LONDON, Eng., Feb. 1.—Ever since the revolting butchery of Stambouloff the people of Europe have been keeping one eye on Prince Ferdinand, watching to see his feet slip in the blood of his victim, and there is heightened dramatic excitement about the task just now, for it looks as if a week or so must bring this cowardly Coburger to a reckoning of some sort. He is arriving in Sofia to-night, after having been to Paris, where his doings remain unknown, thence to Rome, where the Pope sneered at him as too despicable for the church's wrath and Rampollo showed him the door, and to Vienna, where the imperial officials declined to see him at all. In his absence the Bulgarian Ministry has issued invitations to the ceremony of Prince Boris' conversion to the Orthodox faith, called out the military to suppress any possible disorder, and stand ready apparently to dictate terms to Ferdinand. He left Vienna, saying sorrowfully to his friends that probably he will have to abdicate and that he must reach a final decision within the next few days.

It is not so clear that the power of decision is any longer in his hands, but it will be no surprise if next week sees him either quitting Bulgaria altogether or publicly submitting to the baptism of his son, which will be tantamount to putting the principality into the pocket of the Czar. Either alternative must bring Bulgaria to the front in Europe's anxious eye and keep it there. There are other ways in which all men see it likely that the Eastern question will be reopened next spring, but none of which threatens the general peace so nearly as this Bulgarian business. It is conceivable that Russia may, under the guise of an arrangement with the Sultan, march an army corps into Armenia when the snow melts, as she is expected to do, without meeting with practical resistance from any other power, but it is hardly believable that Austria can sit still and see Bulgaria substantially under the protectorate of the Czar.

As the Triple Alliance makes common action binding only when one of the parties is invaded, Austria could not claim Germany's assistance in such an emergency; but it is now clear that she is striving to form another combination of her own with England, Italy and Roumania to help her to meet this impending crisis. It may be taken as fairly certain that England's recent attempts to placate France are preliminaries or accompaniments to the proposition that she will quit Russia and join this new league to answer Kaiser Wilhelm's affront to England and his practical betrayal of his allies for the sake of the Czar's friendship by arraying against this new Russo-German entente a general European league, and this would delight Vienna and Rome scarcely less than London. France, however, weighs her enthusiastic hopes of Russian assistance against her fears of Muscovite treachery and her memories of German conquest and spoliation, and hesitates.

If the matter could be fairly argued in France her choice would be less doubtful, but her press is so largely under the control of German syndicates and of others, whose business it is at all hazards to keep her making friends with England, that there is rather a dubious chance of the Chambers being brought round to see things as they are.

Meanwhile the British flying squadron, which was mobilized with such a startling display of urgency, is being calmly held in the Solent to take part in Prince Henry of Battenberg's funeral. This remarkable alteration of plans is ascribed to deference to the Queen's wish, but it is hard to suppose that this would have been done if something else had not happened to change the situation. It is more likely that the funeral services are in the official mind as a welcome pretext for keeping the squadron where it forms in practice a huge addition to the channel fleet, and yet affords no ground for diplomatic inquiries. [The notion referred to last week that there was ill feeling growing up between Salisbury and Chamberlain has made a marked advance in the minds of the politicians since then. Salisbury's speech last night has been studied to-day with great interest, and people find in it all sorts of hints to confirm this suspicion. Especially does his jocose treatment of the Transvaal business, in which he seems on the whole rather to approve of Dr. Jameson than otherwise, read like a deliberate attempt to belittle Chamberlain's performances. His curious and unsatisfactory eulogium of the Monroe doctrine, too, though nominally in answer to John Morley, is visibly by way of a rejoinder to Chamberlain, who was shrewd enough a week ago to-night to see which way the cat was jumping, and suddenly posed as more ardently desirous of American friendship than anybody else in the Ministry.]

In fact, when Parliament meets ten days hence it will be with the feeling in the air that new and large party combinations are possibly impending. The two by-elections in London this week have shown the Liberal party to be even weaker now than it was when it amazingly picked itself out

COLUMBIA OFFERS PEACE TO STRUGGLING CUBA.



of the mud last July. Its rank and file begin to fear that it has been too terribly mangled to go on holding up its head alone, even if it could shake off the Rosebery incubus which paralyzes at the top. Rumors that Chamberlain may work his chartered company cards so as to put the Tories in the wrong, and be able to march triumphantly back with most of his Unionist followers into the Liberal camp, and with an issue on which to sweep the country when he goes before it as a Liberal leader, begin to filter through Liberal circles. These no longer abhor Chamberlain as they did a year ago, and they are very sick over having risked and lost so much for the sake of the home rule phantom. Who knows? Stranger things have happened.

Very soon the arrival in relays of Cecil Rhodes and his lawyers, then Jameson and his officers, then his paroled troops will be imposing on Englishmen in practical form the extremely embarrassing task of settling what is to be done about the whole vexatious business. Thus far nobody seems to know what tribunal they are to be brought before, or what the Ministry's intentions in the matter are. Many rumors are afloat about the difference of opinion in the Cabinet on this point, hinting that Chamberlain in his efforts to secure a real trial is being opposed by powerful influences in the interest of the chartered company, but these stories are probably born of surmise. There is a certain grim humor in one aspect of the case. A doleful parent writes to the Times pointing out that these 400 Jameson troops who are on their way home are mostly young men whose parents sent them to the Cape to try their fortunes, and will now get them back on their hands with

nothing to do but fit them out again and send them back to Africa, once more, and as they are largely sons of needy small gentry this expense will be a grievous blow to their parents, and he thinks that the chartered company ought to be made to pay the \$50,000 or so that it will cost.

The first genuine test of the stability of the Bourgeois Ministry will come apparently on the income tax proposal in the budget submitted to-day. The scheme differs in a remarkable way from all previous attempts to apply a graduated scale to income taxation, in that it separates into different classes each individual income.

Thus a man with \$15,000 a year pays 5 per cent on \$6000, 4 per cent on \$5000, 3 per cent on \$4000, 2 per cent on \$3000 and 1 per cent on \$2000, and the remaining sum of \$5000 is to be exempt. To this extraordinary complication is added the intricacy of a system by which deductions are to be made on account of the number of children a man has, which in the case of a large family might wipe off half of his taxation.

This putting of a premium on population is only too excusable in France, where people look forward with positive dread to the results of the quinquennial census in the coming spring, but it makes the budget easier for the opponents of the tax to assail. Their campaign is to be based broadly on the fact that the proposed change, by its concurrent abolition of the house tax, will relieve of all taxation 5,500,000 present taxpayers, reduce the taxes now collected from another million and put on the shoulders of the remaining half million the burden of not only making good this huge deficit, but also of providing an extra sum of \$1,200,000 above that the treasury now receives.

HAROLD FREDERIC.

CUBANS WENT WILD IN THEIR GREAT JOY.

But the Spanish on the Island Were Angered by This Country's Attitude.

FIGHTING IN THE INTERIOR.

General Cavalla Surprised by Insurgents and His Forces Defeated With Great Slaughter.

HAVANA, CUBA, Feb. 1.—The news of the action of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate was like a bombshell here. The Spaniards had relied on assurances that the United States would refuse to recognize the belligerency of the Cubans. All cables intimating the committee's probable action were suppressed. Frequent cables from Madrid were published stating there was no probability of favorable action. The Spaniards felt secure and the Cubans had lost hope of recognition.

The first step created a tremendous sensation. The Government refused to permit the papers to publish the New York

cables, but allowed them to print the Madrid cables, stating that the Cabinet held a session to consider the action of the committee in favor of the recognition of belligerency.

The Spaniards are highly indignant. The newspaper organs of the Conservative and Reform parties denounce the action and refuse to believe that Congress and the President will approve it. They declared that if the United States took such action they would lose more than Spain. They called attention to Spain's additions to the navy and increase of defenses for Cuban ports, saying Spain is prepared for any emergency.

The Cubans went wild with joy. Many failed to understand that final action has not yet been taken. The Cubans declared all they wanted was an opportunity to build ships and get arms and ammunition. They said the adoption of the report meant victory for the Cuban cause. The feeling against Americans in Spanish circles is increasing.

There is little doubt that further action by the United States will make their position here uncomfortable. The American residents would feel secure if a warship were here. The moral effect alone would be great. Germany is the only foreign nation represented here now. She has three schoolships in the harbor. The French fleet is said to be coming. The Americans declare that keeping the warships away is an outrage.

General Marin took charge of the active field operations in the hope of a decisive battle with Gomez. He has a great opportunity before the arrival of Weyler. More troops are massed in the center of Havana province than ever before. There are strong fortifications at every station

armored cars are movable along the railroad between the stations, and all points are connected by telegraph. Yet Gomez crosses when he pleases.

Marin started west for Guanajay Thursday morning and stopped over night at San Antonio owing to tracks being removed and wires cut west. Marin believed that both Gomez and Maceo were penned up in Pinar province. He intended pursuing them, making Guanajay the base of operations. Gomez, instead of continuing his march westward to meet Maceo, moved around Guanajay, brushed against Marin's pickets Thursday at San Antonio, passed east through Banos, struck the railroad line between Bejucal and Quivicana, twenty miles south of Havana, crossing to the vicinity occupied last week.

General Cavalla, moving up the line on a train from Batabana with 800 men, Thursday afternoon, was stopped by the rails being removed. Supposing there was only a small band of rebels he ordered the troops to attack and found himself surrounded by Gomez and his party, in danger of being wiped out.

The troops were saved by the arrival of reinforcements after losing many men. The Government refuses to furnish any information. The other sources place the Spanish loss at 200 men. It is believed this is exaggerated. General Marin learned of Canalla's flight Friday morning and changed his plan upon finding Gomez behind him and moved back to Rincon, then southward to San Felipe, where strong defenses have been erected. Maceo when last reported was near the center of Pinar province moving east. His

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THAT CHARTER IS IN DANGER.

Prospects for the Passage of the Repeal Bill Are Good.

GOEBEL IS DETERMINED,

And Has Many Supporters in the Battle Against the Southern Pacific.

HUNTINGTON'S MANY LINES.

Men Who Manage Them Will Assist in the Great Lobby to Defeat the Measure.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 1.—The Senate bill to repeal the charter of the Southern Pacific Railroad has been referred to the committee of which Senator William E. Goebel, the author of the bill, is chairman. The bill will be taken up before the committee the first of the week, and, it is said, will be met with strong opposition, which, as yet, has not openly developed.

Marked copies of a newspaper containing a history of the charter and urging its repeal were laid on the desks of every member of the House and Senate this morning and great interest is now being manifested in the bill. A hot fight is in sight, which promises to be of greater interest than the Senatorial deadlock. Senator Goebel declares there is no question as to the right of the Legislature to repeal the charter and has been laying lines in that direction.

The opposition will bring the greatest fight in the House should the bill pass the Senate and owing to the limited session will attempt to prevent its coming to a final vote.

The part of Governor Bradley's message sent yesterday which referred to the abuses of the system followed by railroads doing business in the State under foreign charters was well taken as far as Huntington's system in Kentucky is concerned, as will be seen by a consideration of the lines operated by him and his associates under one name or another.

"Old Smoothing Iron" (John Echols) has been no small factor in fixing the "integrity and moral durability" of this system, and his associate, St. John Boyle, has done his full part, and though now associated with Echols in the receivership of the C. O. and S. W. Railroad finds plenty of time to come to Frankfort and fight against the bill to repeal the Southern Pacific charter. Mr. Boyle has a number of times been the candidate of the Republican party in Louisville for Congress and once of the party for Governor.

In a matter of this kind, however, and involving such vast interests, the Confederate lion and the Union lamb are content to browse together in Huntington's good pastures, and even fight together for his interests.

Huntington's ocean to ocean system enters Kentucky at Ashland on the north-east and leaves it at the southwestern corner. It is generally understood that all his lines from Newport News to New Orleans are controlled by the Newport News and Mississippi Valley. From Ashland to Cincinnati and Lexington the lines are run by his Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company, of which M. E. Ingalls of Cincinnati is president and George T. Bliss of New York is vice-president, and Decatur Artelle of Richmond second vice-presi-

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