

VENEZUELA WILL FIGHT.

Determined Not to Accede to Great Britain's Demands.

A Difficulty in Which the United States is Vivially Interested—Admiral Meade Instructed to Stand Up for the Monroe Doctrine.

Written for This Paper.] Much has been said and written lately about Great Britain's wanton attack on Venezuela, and American patriots were more than pleased when the government of the United States protested against John Bull's attitude and asked that the points at dispute between the two countries be submitted to arbitration. The foreign office at London returned a very polite, but sarcastic answer to Secretary Gresham, in which our government was informed that England had nothing to arbitrate. The impudence of this reply was galling to American dignity, and Admiral Meade was dispatched to the mouth of the Orinoco, with a powerful fleet to see that neither Great Britain nor any other European power should interfere with the Monroe doctrine.

This doctrine, outlined by President Monroe in his seventh annual message



PRESIDENT JOAQUIN CRESPO.

to congress, December 2, 1823, is virtually a declaration of principles regarding the position of the United States towards foreign powers whose governments might be ambitious to extend their political systems to any portion of the western hemisphere. Such an attempt President Monroe declared to be "dangerous to our peace and safety," and one that would have to be "counteracted or provided against as we shall deem advisable." The congress of the United States has never given formal sanction to the Monroe doctrine, but every executive has asserted it whenever occasion demanded.

Great Britain's present controversy with Venezuela is founded neither on justice nor equity. The South American republic has some rich provinces whose absorption seemed advisable to John Bull, and without hint or ceremony the greedy British lion attempted to devour his prey. Unfortunately for the beast's appetite, Venezuela, after many years of internal strife, happens to have a progressive government, headed by Joaquin Crespo, soldier and statesman. Instead of being frightened by the threats of the British minister and his French and Belgian stool-pigeons, President Crespo sent an emphatic protest to the Englishman and passports to his continental allies who attempted to criticize the government of Venezuela, at what they considered, a favorable and propitious time.

But a word about the nature of the trouble which may yet lead to a brush between the American and British squadrons stationed in South American waters. The province of British Guiana was acquired by Great Britain in 1803, but was not formally ceded by Holland until 1814. The territory given up by the Dutch government included the provinces of Demerara, Berbice and Essequibo, the river of the latter name being claimed as the boundary by Venezuela. This claim has been repeatedly acknowledged by Great Britain; notably in 1841, when a British court in Demerara acknowledged Venezuela's undisputed jurisdiction over the Maracaibo river, and again in 1874, when a similar acknowledgment was made by the authorities of British Guiana. In view of these decisions, backed as they are by treaties going back hundreds of years, Great Britain cannot afford to

time by the British government. The city of Caracas, the national capital, is a beautiful place, supplied with all modern improvements, fine churches, museums and a university. It is an important commercial center and does its foreign trade through La Guayra, its seaport, not far from which part of Admiral Meade's fleet is now at anchor. Both as regards natural resources and climatic advantages Venezuela is one of the richest of South American states. Its coffee, among the best grown on the western hemisphere, is in general demand, and its cacao—exported principally from Maracaibo—is the best in the world. Its vast forests supply virtually unlimited quantities of rubber, sarsaparilla, vanilla, precious woods and medicinal plants. The coast is 1,876 miles in extent, or longer than that of California. It has many excellent harbors, and the lakes of Maracaibo and Valencia have splendid interior ports. More than one thousand rivers drain the land, the Orinoco having no less than 480 affluents. Some of the tributaries of this mighty river, which is navigable 850 miles from the ocean, run south and empty into the Amazon. The object of the British government in claiming everything clear up to the Orinoco river is to obtain control of its mouth, and thus to command the trade of the vast region drained by it, which includes Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, and reaches as far as Brazil.

Recent discoveries of gold in the district coveted by Great Britain have had much to do with the unseemly conduct of the London foreign office. The government of Venezuela has granted valuable franchises to citizens of the United States, and the British diplomats realize that if they wish to accomplish their greedy purpose it must be done before the Americans begin to develop their concessions. But leaving aside the legality of these concessions, the United States could not afford to permit any European power to grasp the rich territory between the Essequibo and Orinoco rivers. The trade of South America naturally belongs to our country, and to violate the plain provisions of the Monroe doctrine by permitting England to snatch it out of our hands would be a crime against the nation which neither President Cleveland nor Secretary Gresham would care to father. Moreover, Venezuela has a moral claim on our support which no one in sympathy with republican government should wish to ignore.

President Joaquin Crespo, the present chief executive of the Venezuelan republic, is said to be the first man fairly elected to the office in twenty-five years. According to common report he is an able and conservative man. As soon as reports reached him of Great



MAP SHOWING BRITISH AND VENEZUELAN CLAIMS.

Britain's aggressive movement in the disputed territory he dispatched a strong body of troops to the frontier, within a short distance of the territory over which England has raised her flag. When a conflict between the troops of the two nations seemed imminent, the United States addressed its now historic protest to the British foreign office and received in reply the diplomatic snub which culminated in the issuing of special orders to Admiral Meade.

Before being elected president Senor Crespo was a bitter opponent of Guzman Blanco, the famous South American dictator who at one time posed as the owner of Venezuela. The revolution of 1893 ended Guzman's political supremacy. In that year, says an American traveler who has just returned from Caracas, Rogas Paul was president, but resigned his office to Palachio, a creature of Guzman. The anti-Guzmanites opposed this action and took the matter to the supreme court, which decided against Palachio's pretensions. Thereupon the would-be president imprisoned all members of the supreme court. Crespo at that time was on his immense cattle ranch, and hearing of Palachio's revolutionary action sent word to him that he must release the members of the supreme court. This Palachio refused to do, whereupon Crespo organized a force of cowboy soldiers and on the threat of marching on the capitol with them compelled Palachio to release the judges and abandon his claim to the presidency.

Crespo's military strength lies with the cowboys, who are devotedly attached to the president. There are 2,000 of them in Venezuela. Although not organized as a military body, they are all armed and mounted, and more than a match for the 5,000 poorly equipped soldiers of the republic. Fortunately, Crespo has so far acted his part with becoming modesty. He has given his country a safe and conservative government, and the prospects are that he will retire gracefully should a majority of his countrymen vote against him at the next election. Such a calamity is not within the range of probability, however, as his determined stand against Great Britain has made him a national idol whose fame is eclipsed only by that of Bolivar, the great liberator.

MAKING GAS IN A PAIL.

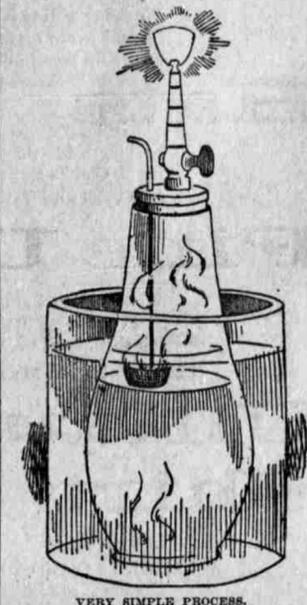
Simple Process by Which Acetylene May Be Generated.

The Apparatus Necessary is Easily Made—Big Jar or a Bucket and a Lamp Chimney Constitute the Entire Outfit.

No modern discovery or invention has excited more general interest than the new illuminant acetylene. T. O'Connor Sloane, Ph. D., has prepared an article, published in the Scientific American, dealing with the commercial manufacture of this gas and its general adoption for lighting purposes. The production of the calcium carbide from which the acetylene gas is made by simple treatment bids fair to become a commercial process, and we have every reason to hope that the material will soon be produced by the ton. There is something fascinating in the idea of being able to evolve a gas of about 800-candle power by so simple a process. While the crudest possible apparatus, such as a tumbler of water, is sufficient to illustrate the production of the gas, the object of the present article is to show how a better demonstration can be produced with very simple appliances.

To show the gas with a tumbler of water, it is sufficient to drop into it a piece of the calcium carbide as large as a pea; the gas is at once evolved in large quantity, and a match can be applied repeatedly to the surface of the water, giving a number of successive lightings. The apparatus is constructed from a battery jar and lamp chimney as the principal elements, and is made on the lines of the old hydrogen evolution apparatus.

To the top of the lamp chimney, which should be of large size, a cork should be tightly fitted. Unless the cork is better than the majority it should be waxed or paraffined, which is very easily done by placing some fragments of wax or paraffine on it and melting the material with a hot soldering iron or poker. Through a central perforation a tube is inserted, fitted with a stop-cock and gas burner. The latter must be of the smallest size



VERY SIMPLE PROCESS.

made, the Bray fishtail burner answering about the best of any yet tried. Merely to exhibit the gas a simple jet may be made by drawing a glass tube almost to a point or by drilling a very small hole in a cap fitted to the pipe leading from the stop-cock. Through a hole a little to one side of the evolution pipe a wire passes, which moves up and down with some friction through the hole. Its lower end is formed into a hook, to which is suspended a little basket made by bending up a little bit of course wire gauze. A piece with one-quarter of an inch meshes will be about right. The suspending wire is bent at the top to give it a better handle.

To operate it the lamp chimney is placed in the jar, the water is poured in until within an inch or two of the top, and a piece of calcium carbide half the size of a walnut is placed in the basket, which is drawn up until pretty close to the cork. The cork is now placed in the lamp chimney and pressed down so as to make it fit tightly, and the wire slowly worked down until the basket becomes partially immersed in the water. The level of the water is at once depressed, as the gas is evolved, and if the cork is open the air and gas within the chimney begin to escape. As soon as the odor of the escaping gas is strong it can be lighted and will burn for five or ten minutes with great steadiness. If the pressure decreases and the water rises it comes in contact with the calcium carbide, more gas is evolved, and it falls again.

The apparatus may be further simplified by omitting the stop-cock, which is unnecessary, and a bucket may be substituted for a battery jar. It may also be necessary to secure the chimney against floating upward, although in the apparatus shown this is quite unnecessary.

It is well, before lighting the gas, to hold a test tube over the outlet for a few seconds until filled with gas, and to light it with a match or a gas burner. If the contents do not explode it is safe to light the jet on the chimney; if it does explode the light should be deferred until purer gas is evolved. Two or three minutes is sufficient to get it in working order. It must also be remembered that it is essential to have a very small burner, as otherwise the gas will smoke and the supply will be insufficient to obtain a satisfactory flame. The suspending wire must fit tightly, as if it slips down the apparatus will blow out or overflow. A very slight immersion of the basket starts it.



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Inaugurating the Fight. The state democratic central committee of Illinois by almost a unanimous vote at a late meeting called a state convention to meet at Springfield June 5 to map out a course to be pursued by the party in the state. The address accompanying the call declares that the "next national campaign must be fought out with the currency as the issue between the parties, and it behooves the democratic party as a party to assume a decided position on this question and to draw its party lines according to the wishes of a majority of its members."

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REAR ADMIRAL R. W. MEADE, U. S. N.

agree to arbitration. She knows her claims to be absolutely without foundation, and realizes that if she wishes to bring the present negotiations to a successful termination she must either fight or play a bold game of bluff.

Venezuela is a federal republic consisting of nine states, five territories and a federal district. It claims an area of 597,000 square miles and a population of over 2,300,000. Branches of the Colombian Andes traverse the north-western portion of the country, and are continuous with a range along the northern coast called the Maripine Andes. Venezuela was discovered in 1498 by Columbus. Later it was made a part of the Spanish captain-generalcy of Caracas. Bolivar liberated the country, together with other states of the original republic of Colombia. In 1800 Venezuela established an independent government. Since then revolution has followed revolution, but in spite of fierce partisan feeling no dictator or president was ever willing to admit the territorial claims set up from time to