

## MEXICO'S GRIEVANCES.

GUATEMALA MUST REDRESS A LONG LIST OF OUTRAGES.

The Situation at Panama—Losses Sustained by the Railroad Company—Health of the Marines—Summarily Disposing of a Batch of Bad Rebels.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 18, via Galveston.—If Mexico becomes the arbiter between Guatemala and the other Central American states, the envoys will probably be sent to this city to make the arrangement. Mexico will insist upon a recognition of her own claims against Guatemala. These claims date from 1839. Few persons in Mexico or foreign countries understand their exact nature.

In 1839 Gen. Guzman, with 700 men, invaded Mexico, marching to Comitán, in the state of Chiapas. Minor disturbances followed for eighteen years. From 1858 to 1864 the border warfare became violent. The town of Tapachula was burned, and Comitán was destroyed three times by fire, as was also the state capitol at San Cristóbal, which is still in ruins. In 1879 Gen. Barrios seized a Mexican in Malacatan, and forced him by torture to deliver his money and goods. In 1870 Gen. Barrios assassinated a Mexican in Rodes, and burned his house. In 1875 a Guatemalan officer led a body of troops into Mexico, where the Guatemalan flag was hoisted and saluted with a salvo of musketry. In 1879 a Guatemalan Alcalde burned a ranch on Mexican territory.

In 1880 Gen. Barillas, now president of Guatemala, but who was then mayor of Quetzaltenango, condemned a Mexican to receive fifty lashes. The Mexican produced his certificate of citizenship, claiming its protection. Barillas seized the certificate, tore it to pieces, and threw it in the Mexican's face. He then ordered the man to be given fifty more lashes for being a Mexican. In the same year the town of Tuxtla was captured and burned by Guatemalan troops. Other outrages were perpetrated in 1884. Mexican commercial interests in Guatemala have been wilfully interfered with. In one instance a Mexican house bought a large quantity of coffee in Guatemala, on which the export duty was quintupled by a special order of the government, so that the coffee had to be sold at a loss in Guatemala, a small portion only being exported in order to secure evidence for a claim for damages. Mexico has a clear case against Guatemala, but will obtain redress peacefully if possible.

When the troops of the Colombian government finally entered Colon, after it had been burned by the rebels under the leadership of Preston, they captured several squads of rebels. During the last few days the number of these prisoners has been considerably augmented by the receipt of rebels captured in surrounding districts. It is not known now just how many rebels were thus held prisoners at Colon, but good authorities place the number at about 400. Authentic information has reached this city that the officers of the Colombian government selected 100 of the worst rebels imprisoned at Colon, and placing them on board a steamer carried them out into the bay, where the entire 100 were thrown overboard and drowned.

In referring to the losses sustained by the Panama railroad a former secretary of the company now in this city says:

"This revolution must have cost the Panama road a large amount of money by the delays and damage to property, both fixed and in transit. It has no redress for that government is practically insolvent. Under the old management there would have been a possible redress by withholding the subsidy which the Panama company paid to the Colombian government for its charter. The subsidy amounted to \$250,000, and constituted the principal income on which the government could rely. In old times any interference with the road on the part of disappointed politicians or revolutionists could be paid for out of the subsidy. Now, however, the situation is different, for a short time before the Panama people sold out to the French the subsidy was paid in advance for a term of years on application of the Colombian government. Some of us opposed the payment on the ground that it deprived us of all control of the situation. But Mr. Trenor Park advocated it, because he thought being out of debt would assist our negotiations with De Lesseps. So we paid in advance for ten years, and now the road has no funds in hand belonging to the Colombians out of which it could recoup itself. There are 12,000 or 15,000 strangers of all nations on the isthmus engaged on the canal. From all accounts they are disposed to be very turbulent. In fact, I rather wonder that they do not claim citizenship and take possession of the country; they could do so easily enough. I am afraid that the marines sent down by this government will, if they stay on the isthmus any length of time, suffer greatly from sickness. Of course everything that discipline and skill can do will be done for their sanitation. But under the most favorable auspices Panama is an unwholesome summer residence."

### Good Order on the Isthmus.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—Secretary Whitney has received the following telegram from Admiral Joutet: "I crossed the isthmus yesterday. Good order continues. Our men are all sound and comfortable."

PANAMA, April 17, via Galveston.—The peace commission left here for Buenaventura, but no good result is anticipated from their efforts. Admiral Joutet visited Panama and inspected the detachment of United States marines there. They are a fine body of men, and are in good health and spirits. An attack by the government forces from Buenaventura is almost inevitable.

### Don Platt's Cousin suicides.

CINCINNATI, April 18.—Ben. M. Platt, of the law firm of Hounshell, Platt & Helm, committed suicide in his office by shooting himself through the head with a bulldog revolver, dying in a few minutes. He is a cousin of Don Platt, and resides with his wife and six children in Covington. He has been in serious financial trouble of late, and has evidently contemplated the act, as he left two letters, addressed to his wife and family, which his partner, Mr. Hounshell, refused to open.

### "Fifty the Sorrows of a Poor Old Man."

CHICAGO, April 18.—A man prematurely gray, ragged and unkempt, was a prisoner in a southside police court, on a charge of vagrancy. He was recognized as Oscar Forberg, formerly a wealthy merchant in Sweden, near the county seat of King Oscar, and supplied the retinue of the royal domain. Unfortunate speculation ruined him and he has for years been a tramp.

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