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TODAY'S WEATHER. WASHINGTON, June 17.—Forecast for Tuesday: For Minnesota: Showers in eastern, fair in western portion; cooler in eastern portion; westerly winds.

For Wisconsin: Showers; cooler; northerly winds, becoming westerly. For North Dakota: Clearing; westerly; warm; southerly winds.

For South Dakota: Fair; westerly winds. For Montana: Fair; northwesterly winds.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., June 17, 1895. Local Time, 8 p. m. 5th Meridian Time.—Observations taken at the same moment of time at various stations.

TEMPERATURES. Place, Ther. Place, Ther. St. Paul, 72. Medicine Hat, 58. Duluth, 70. Swift Current, 58. La Crosse, 70. Qu'Appelle, 58. Huron, 62. Minnedosa, 58. Moorhead, 62. Fort Arthur, 58. St. Vincent, 60. Eston, 58. Bemis, 60. Buffalo, 58. Williston, 54. Cheyenne, 58. Miles City, 58. Chicago, 58. Helena, 54. Cincinnati, 58. Edinburg, 60. Montreal, 58. Battleford, 58. New Orleans, 58. Prince Albert, 58. New York, 58. Calgary, 58. Pittsburg, 58.

DAILY MEANS. Barometer, 29.95; thermometer, 71; relative humidity, 71; wind, southeast; weather, light rain; maximum thermometer, 80; minimum thermometer, 54; daily range, 26; amount of rainfall in last twenty-four hours, .01.

RIVER AT S. A. M. Gauge, Danger Height of Water, Change. St. Paul, 11.4, 4.5, 0.0. La Crosse, 10.30, 6.4, 0.4. Davenport, 11.1, 6.4, 0.4. St. Louis, 10.30, 12.1, 0.0.

*Rise.—Barometer corrected for temperature and elevation. P. F. LYONS, Forecast Official.

A SERIOUS QUESTION.

The Globe publishes an article this morning showing that one of the constitutional amendments adopted by the legislature at its last session will, if ratified by the people, raise some serious questions for the courts and produce radical changes in our conditions of citizenship.

The proposed amendment looks like, to change from a required residence of four months, to one of five years is a tremendous swing of the pendulum. While it is right that a man should not be allowed to vote until he has been in the United States long enough to learn something of its political policy, and to act intelligently as a voter, it is also true that, in these portions which have been populated by the sturdy and intelligent folk of the best stocks of Europe, to enforce the conditions of the federal naturalization law in all its rigor would be to throw the control of government into the hands of comparatively few people.

Whatever may be the final decision of the electorate of Minnesota on this subject, it is certainly important that they should approach it intelligently; and that all of us should know exactly what this proposed amendment would effect in the way of present or future disfranchisement of voters before we go to the polls to say whether we approve of it or not.

THE RAILROADS LAST YEAR.

There would be a greatly added value to the reports of the interstate commerce commission, did not a full year intervene between the close of the fiscal year and the report for that year. The managing editor of the commission probably received his training on an evening paper in St. Louis. But while so belated as to make the report rather a history than a matter of present news interest, there is that in the lengthy summary of the report we printed yesterday to draw attention and stir thought.

While the number of railway corporations would seem to indicate a general competitive condition, the continuing tendency towards concentration is shown by the merger during the year of fifteen companies, and the consolidation of twenty-two and a consolidation of fourteen. A very large number of railway corporations maintain an existence without operating roads, having leased them or consolidated them on terms that require them to preserve their separate existence. The extent to which the consolidation has gone on is shown by the states that forty-four of the roads have over half, 55.3 per cent, of the trackage, and that ninety roads operate 72.9 per cent of the entire mileage.

Whether we regard this movement as one bringing good or evil in its train, it is one that has gone increasingly on in spite of every obstacle. Legislation has failed to prevent either its actual and open or covert progress. Where consolidation has not taken place, traffic arrangements have practically accomplished the same thing with occasional, and, on the whole, injurious fractures. Communities have honored the promoters of new lines, hoping to secure competitive rates, and the inevitable result has been the harmonious agreement of the law to permit all of these to vote after a residence of less than one year, it is a certainty that very many of them have not yet taken out their final naturalization papers.

All of them who have been here long enough to acquire a right to vote, but who have not been here five years, and who have not, therefore, become citizens of the United States by the time of the next election, will, if they vote for this amendment, cast a ballot for their own disfranchisement. They are voters now; but, if this amendment is adopted, they will cease to be voters until they shall have become citizens of the United States by a continuous residence of not less than five years.

It is probable that the courts would be obliged to interfere with the operation of the amendment if it were brought before them. Whether a law like this can be made retroactive, so as to take away the elective franchise from those already in possession of it, without coming in conflict with the federal constitution and exceeding the power of the legislature, is a question of law. We think it extremely doubtful if any man would be excluded by the courts from the right of the elective franchise which he had already enjoyed. The federal constitution and public opinion are both very positive on this point. This, however, is what the amendment, if ratified, would require. And even if judicial opinion were unfavorable to it, the state would have to carry important test questions through the courts before it could be determined what were proper legal qualifications for the electorate.

A glance over the population of the several counties of the state shows such an enormous excess of males of foreign birth that this is a very serious question indeed. Even in the old settled counties of the southern tier, most of them, such as Freeborn, Goodhue and Houston counties, have a very large excess of foreign-born males of voting age.

In the north and northwest, those of foreign birth are from three to six times as numerous as those born in this country. The three counties in the state in which the large cities are located all of them have an excess of foreign-born voting population. How many of them are fully naturalized and how many are recent comers the census statistics do not show.

What would be the effect upon them of the adoption of this amendment could not be ascertained in advance. Still more important in some respects are the possible consequences in the way of diminished immigration. There can be no question that one of the principal attractions which this country presents to intelligent people abroad is the ease with which a right to participate in its government and to enjoy its political institutions may be acquired.

No one should deny that we have made the road to this too short and easy in the past. But it is a common failing of American communities to rush from one extreme to the other. And this is what the proposed amendment looks like. To change from a required residence of four months, to one of five years is a tremendous swing of the pendulum. While it is right that a man should not be allowed to vote until he has been in the United States long enough to learn something of its political policy, and to act intelligently as a voter, it is also true that, in these portions which have been populated by the sturdy and intelligent folk of the best stocks of Europe, to enforce the conditions of the federal naturalization law in all its rigor would be to throw the control of government into the hands of comparatively few people.

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NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

There is a rumor that the application of the Monroe doctrine may be further called in question by the desire of Germany to obtain an island off the coast of Venezuela for a naval station. It is the revelation of the Monroe doctrine may be further called in question by the desire of Germany to obtain an island off the coast of Venezuela for a naval station. It is the revelation of the Monroe doctrine may be further called in question by the desire of Germany to obtain an island off the coast of Venezuela for a naval station.

FATAL DISCORD.

The fatal discord of a few Irish-Americans in this country to carry on the movement for Irish independence by force of arms calls attention to the apparent retrogression of Ireland's cause within the past few years. There is no more telling illustration in history of the fatal effect of internal discord upon the fate of any party, however just its cause. The campaign for home rule for Ireland, as carried on under the leadership of Mr. Parnell, was a mighty triumph for right ideas moving forward by right methods.

He found the aspirations of the Irish people neglected and denied, and the cause of national independence as helpless as if brave men had not given their lives freely in its behalf. He set his face resolutely toward the use of moral force. Year after year he organized the public opinion of Ireland, and led its fierce onslaught upon the public opinion of Great Britain and of the rest of the civilized world.

That movement, it carried with it in the last event one of the two great parties in England. It carried with it the approval of a majority of right-thinking people everywhere. It secured, finally, a majority in the English house of commons. Then triumph became a question only of time.

At this moment there-grept in this fatal cause of ruin which is more insidious and more powerful than all the armies and all the gold at the command of the British empire. A schism appeared in the ranks of the Irish patriots themselves. By one of the last acts of Mr. Parnell's public life the hopes of Ireland were, for the time being, shattered. It matters not for the present how far he was justified in resenting the opinion that private irregularities were a sufficient reason for demanding the resignation of leadership.

The great mistake, the fatal folly of the friends of Ireland, in permitting any man, however dear and great in service and in influence, to divide their forces into two hostile camps. From the day that two parties appeared among the Irish Nationalists, the prospects of home rule have declined. Sentiment in Great Britain and elsewhere has not changed. The belief that Ireland is entitled to home rule holds more minds today than it ever did before.

But that which a reluctant despotism felt obliged to concede to a united people, it dares to refuse to one at war with itself. Home rule has been dropped quietly by Lord Rosebery to the place of a minor issue. The splendid contributions made by America to the Irish cause have almost ceased. It will not take many years more of this unfortunate condition of affairs to reduce Ireland's cause from the rank of a conquering revolution to that of a hopeless conspiracy against the oppression of irresistible force.

All this change has been brought about by the fact of internal dissension. Not again can Ireland hope to hold the advantage over Great Britain until her people and her representatives forget their present grievances and their previous quarrels, and sink everything else in the one great battle for a nation's hope. The force of Ireland's experience ought not to be lost upon any political party or any movement for the bettering of human conditions.

The one indispensable prerequisite to success is harmony. Discord is ruinous, fatal and more sure than the modern rifle or man-of-war. The hopelessness of any assault by force by a weak people upon a mighty power like Great Britain need not be touched upon. Wherever its weapons be those of the battlefield or those of the parliament house, Ireland must first be absolutely united in leadership and in policy. It is as old as the hills and as true as fate that a cause divided against itself cannot hope to conquer.

BRYAN'S MURMURS.

Hon. William J. Bryan, ex-Democrat from Nebraska, and self-styled "silver-tongued orator of the Platte," is exceedingly diligent in having himself interviewed these days. His latest complaint is that Mr. Carlisle is very properly declines to "dig" him by meeting him in joint debate. That this is a severe blow to the Hon. William is easily understood. But why should he murmur? He is not entitled to meet anybody on the platform, because he is at this moment trying to ride several horses. Under the old rules of chivalry, a knight must be assured of the birth and standing of an adversary before he would enter a joust with him.

The articles of war do not apply to bushwackers. Mr. Bryan has at present no party standing, and is not entitled to party privileges or honors. In every essential particular he is a Populist. But, lacking the courage to ally himself openly with that body, he still claims to be a Democrat after having forfeited all claim to the title. Last year he left the Democratic party in his state on the silver issue. He had a right to do that if he saw fit. What he did not have a right to do was to pretend to remain within the party, while denouncing its policies and abusing its leaders.

The man who takes that course forfeits public respect and the claim to party recognition. Mr. Bryan has just been engaged in speechmaking down South on the financial question, which now obscures everything else in his field of vision. To him all other considerations, all claims of expediency, all the laws of party discipline must be observed if the organization is not to be shivered to atoms by warring internal forces, as is nothing in comparison with the idea of free coinage that has become with him at once a religion and a mania. Asked by a Democrat in Louisiana if he would support the candidates of the next Democratic convention if it refused to adopt a free silver, 16 to 1 platform, he finally admitted that he would not. This classifies and labels Mr. Bryan. No man who makes that reply is a Democrat. He will not abide by the decision of the party. We would not vilify him for that; but we would deny his right to assume the party livry for the service in which he is engaged. The proper place for him is in the ranks of the single silver party, with free coinage at the rate of 16 to 1 as its sole platform, which extremists have been endeavoring to organize.

He has surrendered his certificate of membership as a Democrat in good standing; not because he believes in free silver, which many otherwise sound Democrats do, but because he has announced the policy of rule or ruin; because he declares that he will fight the party unless it adopts his individual views. That spirit and that point of view are incompatible with elementary party loyalty.

Commissioner Powers is getting compliments from sources that insure the merit of the compliment. The New York Evening Post closes a long editorial on the commissioner's report with this indorsement: "Regarding the rate on interest, Commissioner Powers has a good word to say for the work of the agricultural college and the experimental farm. 'The school house,' he declares, 'thus becomes a better regulator of interest charges than the market place. Since it aids in making the citizen work with and not against the movement, and thus influences the interest of farmers. It is the fashion nowadays to fly to the legislature for relief from every evil, particularly if financial. The farmers of the United States can be made to realize that not only a favorable rate of interest, but a successful success in general, depends mainly on themselves, and not on statute law. The best of the best of the best of many dangers which now threaten us.'"

Mr. Depew, the only and original Chaney, has had himself interviewed again, this time in "The Nation." The play is a society comedy drama, full of intense action, striking dramatic situations and a strong comedy element. It was produced at the Madison Square theater nearly a decade ago, where it achieved marked success and has ever since been constantly and prominently before the public. Miss Kate Blanche will appear in the title role, one in which she has been particularly successful, and Miss Crossman is cast for the upper part of Mrs. Dick's part. Mr. Depew's confidence is a very slow and pokey affair. That congress was elected last November and Confidence did not show her head until Mr. Cleveland had stopped gold exports by that much-maligned Roosevelt-Morgan syndicate loan. If the election of '94 did it, we should have felt its effects at once.

With the incoming of the like there comes a new field of thieves. They are easily stolen, so easily for second-hand wheels so large that it is not surprising that the thief turns to the wheels as a profitable source for the employment of his bad skill. Various schemes of prevention are suggested, and it is a feature of our municipal legislation in the near future. A police registration by make and number, with a brass check certifying to registration, and the arrest of a person with a wheel unable to show his check, are suggested as efficacious ways of checking the chivalry d'industrie as usual.

What with Taubeneck hovering about the Illinois silver convention and the Iowa Populists to temporarily shelve their socialistic schemes and stand single for free silver, Democrats are beginning to perceive how closely the silver movement is related to the Populist movement. It is rebelling against the connection. Nothing is needed to stop the silver movement among Democrats except a clear conception of the fact that sixteen-to-one coinage of silver is Republican protection and Populist socialism. The Iowa Democrats are beginning to see this cat.

A critic who cannot get away from the logic of the facts and figures in Mr. Atkinson's showing of wages, says that the "supper" statistics are as good as a lie. We stated that the statistics were drawn from the report of the senate committee on finance, which does not cover subsequent years. If, however, the diagrams could be continued to the present moment, it would be found that the statistics were drawn from the report of the senate committee on finance, which does not cover subsequent years.

That reduction of cost widens the circle of use is shown in Newark, O., in the telephone business. With rates at \$48 for office, and \$38 for home service, the Bell had 300 patrons. The Harrison company came in with an offer of \$30 and \$18, respectively. Then the Bell cut to \$14 a year. The Bell retains its number, while the Harrison has 220 "phones" in use. A reduction of half in our local rates would quadruple the number using.

Less than a month ago the villainous Michigan correspondents killed off the peach crop of the Peninsula State. Now comes the information that the peach crop of Michigan is actually so heavy that growers are obliged to go over their orchards with shears and cut off large quantities of peaches to prevent limbs from breaking down. It is, therefore, evident that some of the people of Michigan do not go to church often enough.

The first girl bold, no brave enough to mount and ride the wheel on the streets was the center of all eyes. Now no one notices her with curious gaze. The girl plucky enough to don the sensible blouse, while riding now draws the curious gaze. In a few months she, too, will become so customary a feature of the street as to pass unobserved. So we "first endure, then pity, then embrace."

With free silver Hansbrough and anti-free silver Johnson in a combine to pick the political plums, North Dakota Republicans ought to be able to supply variety enough to please the most captious taste. Mayor Swift, of Chicago, and Mayor Strong, of New York, are running a pretty even race. They bid fair to have about a dozen friends apiece when they reach the end of their terms.

A Frenchman has invented a horse carriage, which means that the French will have to eat more of their horses. The question whether or not there ever was any such thing as a "mad dog" is now before the country for debate. There is a horrible gruesomeness about the act of Anthony J. Drexel

Biddle, who the other day married Miss Cornelia Bradley, of Pittsburg, and immediately thereafter presented her with \$500,000 worth of life insurance policies.

Mr. McKinley finds attendance upon innocuous Chautauqua assemblies much more in his line than running about to political meetings, where he may be called on to say something about the silver question.

AT THE THEATERS.

Little Gertie Cochran, Pete Baker, Bernard Dyllyn, the Lavinos, Schaffer and Clark, and all the other performers on this week's programme of the Alhambra vaudeville at the Metropolitan are meeting with great success. The wonderful act of Little Gertie Cochran is attracting much attention. She answers hundreds of questions of every performance without ever hesitating a moment or making an error. Her act is indeed a liberal education, for she answers hundreds of questions that would puzzle any scholar.

Beginning with a matinee tomorrow the Giffen and Neill company will commence its supplementary season in Bronson Howard's masterpiece, "Young Mr. Pitts." The play is a society comedy drama, full of intense action, striking dramatic situations and a strong comedy element. It was produced at the Madison Square theater nearly a decade ago, where it achieved marked success and has ever since been constantly and prominently before the public.

ST. PAUL'S NEED OF POWER.

Practical Suggestions From Odin G. Clay on the Subject. To the Editor of the Globe. In your paper of today you touch upon a subject that is of great interest to St. Paul, the development of the water power of the Mississippi. This power, unless I am misinformed, has been strangely overlooked by our promoters, and it is very nearly lost to us. As I understand it, the plan at present in favor with the government calls for a series of dams to be built on the river to a height to give a series of basins for steamboat navigation, but not high enough to give any water power of value.

If the plan is carried out as now proposed, we are deprived of our great possibilities in that direction forever. This plan, I think, was adopted through the influence of the Iowa Populists, and if we were not to know to the contrary, I might suspect that the plan was adopted with the idea of giving Minnesota its much-coveted location for the proposed navigation, and cutting St. Paul out of its natural water power. But why should not our representatives in congress see that in the first place, it is widely believed that the navigation of the river above Fort Snelling, even with the best navigation, is practically worthless, and the improvements, so far as navigation goes, are a waste of the people's money.

But, going on to the second point, the navigation on which a powerful naval station has been established. There are two other islands near by, owned by Venezuela, either of which would be well adapted to Germany's needs. There is another large island further up the coast, but it constitutes a province of Venezuela, and it is not possible to have such intense loyalty to the German syndicate as to have been named "New Spartans." We would undoubtedly resist any separation, even if Venezuela assented to it.

BRITISH INTERESTS. At the moment that this German phase of the Venezuelan question is making its appearance the British branch of the subject is presenting a more favorable aspect. Official intelligence has recently reached here that Sir Vincent has been in London, and that the most extensive British interests in Venezuela, has strongly urged upon the British government the importance of an amicable settlement with Venezuela as a means of protecting British investments in that country. Since the withdrawal of the British minister at Venezuela, as a result of the boundary trouble, Sir Vincent has stood as a representative in that country. He is at the head of the syndicate of London capitalists who built the railroads from Caracas to La Guayra, thus connecting the capital with the chief seaport. At La Guayra the syndicate built an artificial harbor, with breakwaters and stone wharves, at a cost of several millions. Sir Vincent manages these extensive British interests, and his appeals that they can be fostered by a settlement with Venezuela will doubtless have an important influence on the foreign office.

ELECTION CONTESTS.

Papers in Three Cases Opened at Washington. WASHINGTON, June 17.—Clerk Kerr, of the house of representatives, today opened the papers in the contest of election cases of Kearby versus Abbott, from the Sixth Texas district; Rosenthal versus Crowley, from the Tenth Texas district, and Boose versus Busk, from the Third Maryland district. The papers in each instance were opened in the presence either of the parties to the contest or their representatives, and the contest was decided merely in a hurried inspection of the documents, which had been previously sealed by the clerk and had remained

OUR OLD STAND-BY

MONROE DOCTRINE MAY BE REFERRED TO AGAIN VERY SOON.

GERMANY AFTER AN ISLAND.

ONE ON THE VENEZUELAN COAST WOULD SUIT HER PURPOSES.

HOW IT MAY BE OBTAINED.

A Guarantee on German Investments That Could Be Used to Advantage. WASHINGTON, June 17.—There is reason to believe that the United States government will have occasion at no distant day to give another interpretation of the Monroe doctrine as applicable to the acquisition of an island off the coast of Venezuela to be used by Germany for a naval station. The attention of Secretary of State Layton was directed to the interests of Germany in that locality, and there is apprehension that the subject may assume quite as formidable an aspect as that of British aggression on Venezuelan soil.

An enormous amount of German capital has been invested in the Venezuelan coast, under peculiar circumstances. The government wanted a railroad through a rich and productive valley, and a German syndicate stood ready to build the road on condition that Venezuela would guarantee 7 per cent on the capital invested. The guarantee was given and the road completed and put into operation about eight months ago. At the outset it was supposed that about \$4,000,000 would amply cover the cost of the road, but the actual cost reached about \$8,000,000. By the terms of the guarantee Venezuela now becomes responsible to the German syndicate for a 7 per cent return on this \$8,000,000. The road has not been in operation long enough to determine what it will earn, but it is most sanguine promoters do not hope that it will pay 7 per cent on the outlay. Whatever it earns will be applied on the investment and Venezuela will then have to give sufficient to bring the earnings up to 7 per cent.

FOR A NAVAL STATION.

It is said to be this and similar German interests that are inclining the German government to regard with favor the acquisition of an island off the Venezuelan coast, to be used as a naval station, and as a sort of base of operations for Germany on the American continent. The guarantee of Venezuela to the German syndicate is of a private character, the German government having no interest in the matter, but it is looked upon as affording a convenient means by which the government, in giving protection to its citizens, could also carry out its desires for the acquisition of a naval station. The circumstances of such a station, as to the belief that the United States will again be called upon to define to what extent the acquisition of territory by foreign powers on South American soil is compatible with the Monroe doctrine. Great Britain already possesses an island at the mouth of the Amazon, on which a powerful naval station has been established. There are two other islands near by, owned by Venezuela, either of which would be well adapted to Germany's needs.

There is another large island further up the coast, but it constitutes a province of Venezuela, and it is not possible to have such intense loyalty to the German syndicate as to have been named "New Spartans." We would undoubtedly resist any separation, even if Venezuela assented to it.

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PRESIDENT STARBUCK WON.

But the Elijah Smith Faction Claim a Majority. PORTLAND, Ore., June 17.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Oregon Improvement Company was held here this afternoon. The meeting called to order by President W. H. Starbuck, and Secretary Poston acted as secretary. There were also present C. H. Prescott, C. H. Tedcastle, C. J. Smith, C. A. Dolph, W. M. Ladd, G. Dolph, Joseph Simon, of Portland; William Roberts, George Taylor, of New York; C. J. Smith, of Seattle; C. H. Tedcastle, G. H. Prince, J. J. Starbuck, of New York; and R. W. Williams, of this city.

The annual report of the president was received but not read, and balloting for directors was immediately commenced. There were two tickets in the field, the one representing the Elijah Smith faction being defeated. Those offered for directors by the faction now in control, that is, the ticket of President Starbuck, were elected, as follows: Henry Failing, C. H. Lewis, W. M. Ladd, G. Dolph, Joseph Simon, of Portland; William Roberts, George Taylor, of New York; C. J. Smith, of Seattle; C. H. Tedcastle, G. H. Prince, J. J. Starbuck, of New York; and R. W. Williams, of this city.

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PRESIDENT STARBUCK WON.

But the Elijah Smith Faction Claim a Majority. PORTLAND, Ore., June 17.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Oregon Improvement Company was held here this afternoon. The meeting called to order by President W. H. Starbuck, and Secretary Poston acted as secretary. There were also present C. H. Prescott, C. H. Tedcastle, C. J. Smith, C. A. Dolph, W. M. Ladd, G. Dolph, Joseph Simon, of Portland; William Roberts, George Taylor, of New York; C. J. Smith, of Seattle; C. H. Tedcastle, G. H. Prince, J. J. Starbuck, of New York; and R. W. Williams, of this city.

The annual report of the president was received but not read, and balloting for directors was immediately commenced. There were two tickets in the field, the one representing the Elijah Smith faction being defeated. Those offered for directors by the faction now in control, that is, the ticket of President Starbuck, were elected, as follows: Henry Failing, C. H. Lewis, W. M. Ladd, G. Dolph, Joseph Simon, of Portland; William Roberts, George Taylor, of New York; C. J. Smith, of Seattle; C. H. Tedcastle, G. H. Prince, J. J. Starbuck, of New York; and R. W. Williams, of this city.

OUR OLD STAND-BY

MONROE DOCTRINE MAY BE REFERRED TO AGAIN VERY SOON.

GERMANY AFTER AN ISLAND.

ONE ON THE VENEZUELAN COAST WOULD SUIT HER PURPOSES.

HOW IT MAY BE OBTAINED.

A Guarantee on German Investments That Could Be Used to Advantage. WASHINGTON, June 17.—There is reason to believe that the United States government will have occasion at no distant day to give another interpretation of the Monroe doctrine as applicable to the acquisition of an island off the coast of Venezuela to be used by Germany for a naval station. The attention of Secretary of State Layton was directed to the interests of Germany in that locality, and there is apprehension that the subject may assume quite as formidable an aspect as that of British aggression on Venezuelan soil.

An enormous amount of German capital has been invested in the Venezuelan coast, under peculiar circumstances. The government wanted a railroad through a rich and productive valley, and a German syndicate stood ready to build the road on condition that Venezuela would guarantee 7 per cent on the capital invested. The guarantee was given and the road completed and put into operation about eight months ago. At the outset it was supposed that about \$4,000,000 would amply cover the cost of the road, but the actual cost reached about \$8,000,000. By the terms of the guarantee Venezuela now becomes responsible to the German syndicate for a 7 per cent return on this \$8,000,000. The road has not been in operation long enough to determine what it will earn, but it is most sanguine promoters do not hope that it will pay 7 per cent on the outlay. Whatever it earns will be applied on the investment and Venezuela will then have to give sufficient to bring the earnings up to 7 per cent.

FOR A NAVAL STATION.

It is said to be this and similar German interests that are inclining the German government to regard with favor the acquisition of an island off the Venezuelan coast, to be used as a naval station, and as a sort of base of operations for Germany on the American continent. The guarantee of Venezuela to the German syndicate is of a private character, the German government having no interest in the matter, but it is looked upon as affording a convenient means by which the government, in giving protection to its citizens, could also carry out its desires for the acquisition of a naval station. The circumstances of such a station, as to the belief that the United States will again be called upon to define to what extent the acquisition of territory by foreign powers on South American soil is compatible with the Monroe doctrine. Great Britain already possesses an island at the mouth of the Amazon, on which a powerful naval station has been established. There are two other islands near by, owned by Venezuela, either of which would be well adapted to Germany's needs.

There is another large island further up the coast, but it constitutes a province of Venezuela, and it is not possible to have such intense loyalty to the German syndicate as to have been named "New Spartans." We would undoubtedly resist any separation, even if Venezuela assented to it.