THE CENTRAL AMERICAN TROUBLES.

(Continued from page 1.)

The Republic of Nicaragua has a frontage on the Carribean Sea of about 300 miles and 200 miles on the Pacific, with an estimated area of 49,000 square miles, or about the same as Louisiana. The population is about 500,000, with 30,000 people in Managna, the Capital. Only about 17,000 of the whole number are descendants of the Spanish settlers, with the rest of the people consisting of Indians, negros and mixtures of these bloods. The Indians supply most of the labor, and are docile and industrious. The soil is quite fertile, and coffee grows luxuriantly. Many of the coffee plantations belong to Germans, and in 1902 there were more than 30,000,000 pounds produced. Three crops of corn can be raised a year on the same ground. The rubber industry is also important, while the banana industry is growing rapidly. The cocoanut, tobacco and cattle raising are also important industries. The public debt is about $5,000,000, on which there are many years of interest due. Nicaragua is on a silver basis, with the peso as a standard. A peso is worth 36.1 cents in United States money.

The Republic of Salvador is the smallest and most densely populated, having an area of 8,135 square miles, or about the size of Massachusetts. The best part of the country is a tableland lying between the mountains, the soil of which is exceedingly fertile, interspersed with lakes and rivers. The main production at present is coffee, of which something like 60,000,000 pounds a year is grown. A fine quality of indigo, sugar, tobacco and rice is also raised. The Government has been encouraging the cultivation of cotton, and there is a considerable cattle-raising industry. The population is 1,600,348, of which five per cent is reported as white, 55 per cent as Indian and 40 per cent of mixed blood. The country is on a silver basis, with the peso ranging from 35 to 46 cents, and the public debt is about $12,000,000.

The Republic of Costa Rica (Spanish,

A GUATEMALA SOLDIER.

A COSTA RICAN OFFICER.

rich coast) is the most southern of the Central American States, and joins on to Panama. There has been much contention over its boundaries, but it is estimated to have about 21,500 square miles, or about the size of Maine, with a population of something over 300,000, if all the wild Indians are counted. The population is regarded as of somewhat higher character than that of the neighboring countries, since there is so strong an infusion of the blood of the Spanish colonists from Galicia, who are industrious and peaceful. The public debt, including years of defaulted interest, amounts to something like $13,500,000. Agriculture is in a more flourishing condition than elsewhere in Central America, and sometimes as high as 45,000,000 pounds of coffee are exported. Next to coffee, bananas are the most important product, and the exportation of these goes up by leaps and bounds. In 1901 about 4,000,000 bunches of bananas were shipped out of the country.

The Cause of the Present War.

There are any number of stories told as to the real causes of the present war, but probably the dominating fact is the attempt of President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, to carry out the old plan of a strong federated Central American Republic, with himself at the head.

In 1903 there was one of the customary disputes as to boundaries, this time between Nicaragua and Honduras. It was submitted to King Alfonso, of Spain, for arbitration, and he decided in favor of Honduras, but Nicaragua never accepted it. All the time in these Spanish-American emeutes we must look for the selfish ambitions and greed of the cliques of badly educated politicians. What are called the upper classes in all these countries are men who have received a specious, showy education in the old Feudalistic schools of Spain. They have come back to their own countries professing themselves to be republicans, but all the time imbued with the ideas of conquest and plunder, such as animated the conquistadores of centuries ago. That is, every young man feels that in some way he should live in luxury upon the labor of the common people. The best and surest way to do this is to get control of the Government and levy taxes and collect customs. When one crowd gets in, it proceeds to squeeze everybody in order to fill its pockets before the opposition gets strong enough to turn it out. There is very little public spirit even in the highest classes, while among the Indians and mixtures of negro, Indian and Spanish bloods there is absolutely none. All that these people want to do is to get enough from day to day for their support and save as much as possible from the exactions of their rulers. They take really little part in the wars one way or the other, and consequently these are fought out by very small forces of such men and boys as the contestants can manage to beat up and put into ranks with guns in their hands. So long as these rival factions are only oppressing and robbing the people of the country our Government takes no interest in the matter. When, however, as was recently the case, the victors get control of the seaboard cities and begin to raid the merchants and plantation owners, then foreign Governments must give their citizens protection.

Insignificance of These Wars.

It would seem that there entered into the war a great deal of personal feeling between President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, and President Bonilla, of Honduras, and the struggle partook largely of the nature of a fight between these two.

The dimensions and character of the armies by which the struggle was prosecuted seem laughably small. In the "desperate" battle of Camaguay, which lasted half a day, and really decided the fate of Honduras, it is reported that there were 1,000 men on one side and 400 Hondurans, under "General" Guerrero, an Indian. As both numbers are probably much exaggerated, we can imagine that the battle really did not amount to as much as an ordinary riot which the police of any of our cities can easily handle.

The great mass of the people take no interest whatever in the fight and the so-called armies are usually a lot of little boys and vagrants of any kind that the leaders can shirk up and put into some kind of line.

President Zelaya, who seems to be a very much stronger man than his opponent, was shrewd enough to stir up fires in the rear and have Bonilla's rivals appear in the field with revolutionary armies, probably somewhat larger than a football team, but not nearly so dangerous.

In such a condition of affairs there is always a very disturbing uncertainty as to where "anybody is at," and naturally we have a story of the regular Honduran troops firing by mistake upon some of their allies, thinking that they were revolutionists, and after the mistake was discovered both sides continuing the battle in anger over the provoking mistake.

The Presidents of the other Central American States mobilized their "armies" of small boys and otherwise stood ready to take part in the fight, but they had also their fears of a fire in the rear from their rivals, whom they had defeated for the Presidency, and did not move. Salvador seems to have sympathized strongly with Honduras and mixed in to a certain extent in the struggle.

President Bonilla in Flight.

The Nicaraguan troops captured Tegucigalpa and put President Bonilla to flight. The occupation of the capital was marked by great disorder, plundering and robbing, and it is reported that the children of Gen. Carcamo were hanged in revenge for his activity in a previous war against Nicaragua.

President Bonilla fled to Amapala, the principal port of Honduras, which also gets a large trade from Salvador and Nicaragua. It is a small village of about 1,100 inhabitants, and preparations were made for a stubborn defense. The United States took precautions as soon as the war broke out to send warships to protect the American and other foreign interests there, and as the victorious troops approached the various ports they were warned off and made to distinctly understand that no looting and murdering would be allowed. At the Honduran ports of Ceiba and Truxillo Hotchkiss guns were landed to inforce the orders of the American naval officers, and the Nicaraguan gunboats were distinctly forbidden to bombard. The cruiser Chicago and the gunboat Princeton went to Amapala to prevent either the bombardment of the town by the Nicaraguan gunboats or its capture by assault, and Philip I. Brown, Secretary of the United States Legation, went to Amapala to see Bonilla and arrange for a termination of the war. He succeeded in getting Bonilla to agree to surrender, leave the country and never return to Central America. A new election for a President of Honduras is to take place within 60 days. The United States placed a man of war at the disposal of Presidents Figuera, of Salvador, and Zelaya, of Nicaragua, upon which to meet and hold their consultations.

TYPE OF HONDURAS SOLDIERY.

In the meanwhile Gen. Sierra, who was one of Bonilla's rivals, is set up as the President of the Provisional Government, and will be Commandant at Amapala.

President Bonilla went on board the gunboat Chicago, and it is said that he will either live in France or South America. He cannot be counted upon to do either. Revolution is an incurable habit among these Spanish-American politicians, and no matter what promises they make they are pretty certain, if their life is spared, to return and head another outbreak. Therefore the custom of the victor of summarily shooting his defeated opponent.

The Governments of the United States and Mexico have taken an active interest in the matter of securing peace, and Presidents Roosevelt and Diaz have telegraphed their congratulations upon the termination of the conflict.

There are many questions left unsettled which are to be referred to a commission, which will meet either in Washington or the City of Mexico within a few months. It is hoped that the long desired confederation of all the Republics into one Nation will be brot about, and possibly a little urgency will be administered by Mexico and the United States to secure this result.

The Steamer Empress.

J. W. Vest, 21st Ind., Bridgeport, Ind., wants some one to give a correct account of the firing on the steamer Empress near Gaines's Landing, Ark., early in August, 1864.

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Peter Keagan, Galesburg, Ill., had cancer of the mouth and throat. Doctors said, "no hope." Mr. Keagan wrote: "It is only a question of a short time—I must die." To-day his cancer is healed up and he is well. My marvelous radiatized fluid did it. It has other just such cures to its credit. It is saving people every day and restoring them to health and strength. If you have cancer or any lump or sore that you believe is cancer, write to-day and learn how others have been cured quickly and safely and at very small expense. No matter what your condition may be, do not hesitate to write and tell me about it. I will answer your letter promptly, giving you, absolutely free, full information and proof of many remarkable cures. Address, Dr. Rupert Wells, 2804 Radol Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

VIGOROUS AGGRESSIVENESS EVERYWHERE.

From a Toppling Blow Against Standard Oil to an Interstate Campaign Against Sheep-Scab.

Heavy Blow at the Standard Oil.

There has been an awakening of late in the Government's prosecutions of the big octopuses. With Congress in session and several other topics holding the attention of the country, sight has been lost of some of the very great law cases. A verdict by 12 jurors in the United States District Court at Chicago, presided over by Judge Kenesaw Landis late last week, finding the Standard Oil Company of Indiana guilty of accepting illegal rates from the Chicago & Alton Railroad, as charged in 1,462 counts, is one of the great legal triumphs of the Administration, and brings the anti-trust activities into prominence once again.

It is a question how large fines can be imposed upon the Standard Oil Company in these cases. The maximum penalty under the law is $20,000 on each count; the minimum penalty is $1,000 on each count. If Judge Landis imposes a fine under each count he can require the payment of $29,240,000 from the defendant company. Such a mammoth fine would come near to putting the company "on the bum;" at least it would be a serious tax upon its revenues, large as they are. But it remains to be seen whether the verdict will hold in the courts, and also whether Judge Landis will be lenient with the rich defendant. The Department of Justice is in the dark about what the Court will do, but the Department officials are intensely pleased at the outcome of the litigation. There will probably be some hard fighting ahead for the Department if the case is carried up to the Supreme Court, as is quite likely. Any appeal will be on law points or on constitutionality of the Elkins statute under which the conviction was had.

As soon as the Supreme Court adjourns for the Summer, the Department of Justice will take up several matters affecting trust prosecutions. As long as the Department has the "Supreme Court on its hands," the time of the Attorney-General and of the Solicitor-General, as well as of several of the Assistant Attorneys-General, is much occupied with Government suits pending there. Since the Federal Government went into litigation by wholesale, incident to trust and corporation busting, the suits before the Supreme Court have multiplied, and this has increased the work of the Department greatly. There are scores of comparatively minor cases, such as the testing of the Employers Liability Law, which must be carefully prepared and exhaustively argued. And while the cost of maintaining the Department of Justice is several times more now than it was five years ago, the officials thereof are apparently earning their salaries as much as ever.

The Big Trusts May Tremble.

Accordingly when the Department gets the Court off its hands, and is in the same free condition that President Cleveland used to be when he got Congress off his hands, some of the big trusts may well tremble. Special attorneys have worked up numerous cases which, sooner or later, must reach the Attorney-General and receive his verdict as to what shall be done—whether there shall be prosecutions or whether the cases shall be regarded as closed. Notable in this class are the investigations of the anthracite coal trust, and also of the bituminous coal trade. The country rang with the iniquities of the Anthracite Trust a few months ago. The practices of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in allowing officials to hold stock in coal companies and the favoritism shown in the distribution of cars made an unpleasant chapter in the revelations of modern railroading.

Gov. Hughes, of New York, was one of the special attorneys named to work up the evidence in those two investigations, but he went away to Europe, then entered upon his campaign for Governor of New York, and accomplished practically nothing toward the work for which he was appointed. C. Carroll Todd and Alexander Simpson, Jr., took up the evidence, however, and about a month ago made an exhaustive report to the Attorney-General. Their recommendations have not reached the public yet, and probably will not until Mr. Bonaparte has had time to go over the reports in both cases carefully and reach his conclusions. That he will do after he gets the Supreme Court off his hands.

The Campaign Against Sheep Scab.

The great variety of aggressive campaigns which the Government is waging may be demonstrated by citing the activity of the Department of Agriculture in exterminating sheep scab. This is only for purposes of comparison. Sheep scab has depopulated flocks in numerous States, and the Department, thru the Bureau of Animal Industry, has been egging Legislatures on to enact effective legislation for "dipping." Some Legislatures have balked and some have complied. Nevada and California are examples. Nevada passed a law that pleases the Bureau of Animal Industry; California passed a law that was far from satisfactory. But the Department of Agriculture is now co-operating with the State of Nevada in exterminating scab and it is making things unpleasant for California. For example, there are great forest reserves that cross the boundary line between the two States. These reserves afford pasture for about 200,000 sheep, one-half of which come from California. But the Department of Agriculture will not issue any grazing permits for California sheep in those reserves, unless such sheep have been "dipt." And the anti-scab war is being waged in Washington, Idaho, New Mexico and a number of other localities. In New Mexico alone the Government has a little army of 100 Inspectors at work.

Aggression is the watchword in every Department, and this is the season of the year when plans for aggression are budding. The Interior Department, for instance, is organizing for a war against the grabbers of public lands. The various divisions for field work have been reorganized, new chiefs have been put in command and given instructions to go over the books of land offices and determine who has been making illegal entries as well as to ascertain the general conditions with a view to eliminating fraud. Congressmen from the West grumble at this activity, but the work is to be pushed.

Aggressiveness Everywhere.

The Postoffice Department, too, is doing some overhauling. Second Assistant Postmaster-General McCleary, new in his place, has taken up the matter of reform in the contracts for the railway mail service. There is extensive weighing of mails now in the West. Next year there will be weighing in the East. It is proposed to cut out of these transportation contracts a lot of the graft that has hitherto been ignored.

The Department of Commerce and Labor, under Secretary Oscar Straus, is likewise doing some Spring cleaning. After the Larchmont disaster on Long Island Sound Mr. Straus gave the inspection service a shaking up. He found the Inspectors fairly competent, but they had lived in the same localities so long that they had made friends with the owners of ships and were not quite as severe in inspecting hulls and boilers as the Department would have them. So these Inspectors were transferred to new fields and the certificates of ships that go to sea this Summer, especially the excursion boats, will mean more than heretofore. Now the Secretary is following this with a shake up in the immigration service. He is going to conduct investigations of the stations at various cities, including New York and Boston, where a large proportion of the immigrants to this country arrive.

Secretary Cortelyou has been too busy keeping the Treasury Department on an even keel during the panicky times to inaugurate reforms, but he has some Spring cleaning in mind, and it will be brought about as soon as he gets around to it. Secretary Taft has had too much trouble to look after in the West Indies to give much attention to the War Department of late, but no great reforms are in contemplation there.

The Navy Department and its great bureaus are well satisfied with themselves, and regard the activities elsewhere with complacency.

The State Department is one of the smallest of all the Executive Departments, altho its work, of course, is very important. Secretary Root's activities are of a different character. He is particularly interested in getting the difficulties between this Government and Canada adjusted, and seems to be succeeding, for he has recently announced that a treaty for the appointment of a Commission to take up the various fisheries and boundary questions has been practically concluded between himself and Embassador James Bryce. He is also making a treaty with Germany, covering our trade relations, and calculated to secure permanent admission for our meats. The Germans have had a hard time since their Government excluded American meats. They can not raise cattle and sheep enough for their meat supply, and since the barriers were raised against these products the price to the German consumer has been steadily soaring.

It is well, perhaps, that Uncle Sam's officials are all so busy just now, making a showing while the sap rises in the maples. They will do their hard work and put in their longest days between now and the hot weather. The hot weather, of course, comes all too soon in Washington. April, May and June, and then Government officials will be hiking off for a vacation, and their subordinates will do no more work than is absolutely necessary.

Thanks for the Books.

At a regular meeting of Culver Post, Duluth, Minn., a resolution was adopted warmly thanking The National Tribune for its notice in regard to the Post's desire for contributions of books for its Civil War Library which it is establishing. Comrade Edwin B. Force, the Adjutant, writes that the notice was the most effective help that the Post has received, and the contributions forthcoming far exceeded their most sanguine expectations. They have already the nucleus of a fine library to transmit to coming generations.

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It is not a stimulant and is taken in teaspoonful doses.

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If you need a medicine you should have the best.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need you will find it on sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes, fifty cents and one dollar.

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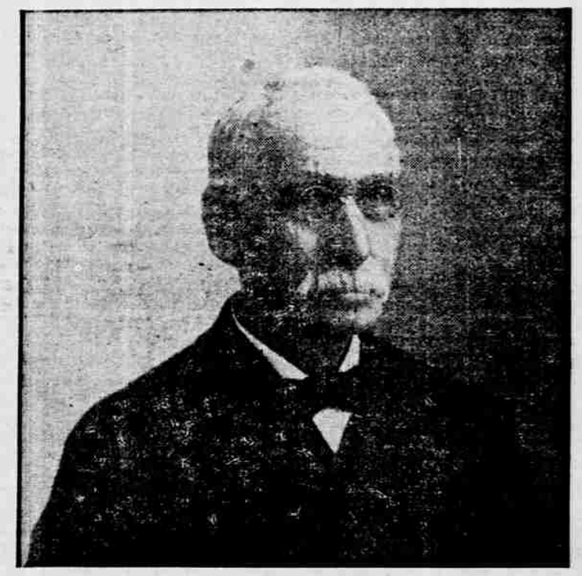
The following is a brief account of my army life, which I cheerfully give:

I entered the service on Aug. 11, 1862, as a private. I was soon promoted to Corporal, then to Sergeant, and later to the various grades of Sergeants, and still later I received a commission as Second Lieutenant, and later still as First Lieutenant in Co. K, 10th N. H. Regiment as Captain. From the time I was commissioned to Second Lieutenant to the close of the war I was in five battles and three sieges. The great battle of Fredericksburg was my first and my last was the siege of Richmond. After the second battle of Fair Oaks one other officer, myself and 16 men were all that was left of the regiment that escaped death, wounds or imprisonment, and for the following two weeks I was obliged to command the regiment for want of a ranking officer for this purpose.

The Lord very mercifully preserved me from all harm when men were falling on my right and on my left and in some cases very near to me.



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"Very truly yours. CAPT I. C. RICHARDSON."

SAMPLE BOTTLE OF SWAMP-ROOT SENT FREE BY MAIL.

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ISTHMIAN QUARRELS.

(Continued from page 1.)

son who has been to the Isthmus testifies to his efficient work. He insists that he resigned simply because he was "tired out," and denounces the "ridiculous reasons" ascribed to the sudden and unexpected termination of his services. Furthermore Mr. Stevens, on arriving in Washington, paid his respects to W. J. Oliver, the contractor who expected to secure the award for digging the ditch. He says he never opposed the construction of the canal by private contract, altho he was opposed to Oliver, and he adds: "The refined statement of a disgruntled bidder (referring to Oliver) that because I opposed the letting of the contract I 'was fired,' is a falsification pure and simple."

Mr. Oliver Hits Back.

Mr. Oliver has already contributed considerable vigorous English to the literature of the Panama Canal. His anecdote of the poker game, the sucker and the whangdoodle, altho taken from the poker lore of Montana, was very aptly applied to his own position when the Government refused to award him the contract on the lowest bid. And just as soon as Mr. Oliver down in Knoxville read what Mr. Stevens had said about him he retorted. Mr. Oliver directed the shafts of his ridicule upon Mr. Stevens as a "paper collar patriot." He continued: "In all my experience I have never had an associate presented with any loving cups (referring to Mr. Stevens's interview calling attention to the great send-off canal employes gave him at Colon) upon leaving a live job, and this tearing away from loving mothers to go up against a good salary in a mosketo-proof bungalow, I consider a trifle overworked. As a matter of fact it is the man in the ditch who is entitled to this consideration, be he high or low, official or laborer."

This proved interesting reading at the White House and in the Canal Commission offices. Mr. Oliver is known in both places as a breezy kind of citizen, and more than once his comments about canal affairs have been very much in point. Empty eulogy has been increasing as a feature in official life of Washington, and the evil, if evil it be, has crept into the administration of canal affairs. Since the President's experience with Wallace, everybody, even Shonts, the inefficient, has gone out with praise and the blowing of horns. And everybody of any station on the Isthmus has been serving simply because of his patriotism and because of his willingness to sacrifice himself on the altar of his country. There has been little mention of the salary, which, as everyone who stops to take a sensible view, knows is the controlling consideration with all canal employes in this very material era.

Secretary Taft will soon be back in Washington with some recommendations for the President about canal construction, and it is expected that Chairman and Chief Engineer Goethals will have ample opportunity to show whether he can make the dirt fly as fast as Chief Engineer Stevens did. All the Congressional parties are now returned, have given their opinions to the country, and the second educational period with reference to canal affairs seems to be well under way. The first educational period, it might be explained, dated from the visit of President Roosevelt last November, which was planned chiefly for the purpose of educating the country to the idea that everything on the Isthmus was all right and that the criticisms were unfounded.

The verdicts of the Congressmen who have been traveling on the Isthmus since adjournment largely bears out the conclusions which the President reached. There is an occasinal note of dissent. Probably the Administration members are a little too enthusiastic in their statements, for they want to see things thru Roosevelt's spectacles. But no very serious criticisms of the canal have developed further than that the project is likely to cost much more than has been estimated and that it will take much longer to build the canal than the country has been led to believe.

The Wirz Monument.

Ransom Post, Mitchell, S. D., has adopted resolutions reciting that the end of the differences which arrayed brother against brother had been nearly reached, but that this glad consummation is seriously disturbed by the proposition to erect a monument to Wirz. The United Daughters of the Confederacy are begged to desist from this project, which is fraught with so much ill influence toward a reconciliation of the sections.

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