

WAR IMMINENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

Nicaraguan Minister Seeking Offensive and Defensive Alliance With Venezuela.

THREE STATES THREATENED.

Colombia, Salvador and Costa Rica Have Displeased President Zelaya, Who Is Seizing All Private Arms.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Sept. 28.—(Copyright, 1900, by W. R. Hearst.)—President Zelaya of Nicaragua and President Castro of Venezuela are scheming to plunge all Central America into war.

Fernando Saurez, Nicaragua's Minister of Foreign Affairs, has gone to Venezuela to present to President Castro the commission of a Major General in the Nicaraguan army and the decorations that appertain to the rank. This is the ostensible reason for his trip, but the real reason, of which no secret is made, is to form an offensive and defensive alliance between the two countries against Colombia, Salvador and Costa Rica.

Not that the people of these little Republics have anything against each other, far from it; they are on the most friendly terms so far as their so-called Presidents allow them to go. The secret of all the trouble lies in the fact that these Presidents are more despotic than the great Emperors of the Orient. They are military dictators, in power only so long as they can keep their enemies from ousting them. Party names mean nothing, except "ins" and "outs." At present the "liberals" are in power in Nicaragua and Venezuela, while the "conservatives" rule Colombia, Salvador and Costa Rica.

President Zelaya rules the Conservatives of his own country with a hand of iron. Squads of his soldiers are arresting the rich and locking them up in Managua. They get no trial and are never accused of anything. But they stay in prison, where they must pay for their board and lodging or starve, until they give up all money; then they are allowed to go home.

No man is allowed to own a rifle, and President Zelaya has corralled all the cannon and ammunition in the country, which he keeps here under lock and key, guarded by his personal friends. He has a list in his desk of every man in Nicaragua who owns a revolver or shotgun.

These internal precautions have been taken in view of an expected attack by Costa Rica, Salvador and Colombia in revenge for the aid Zelaya gave to the Colombian rebels.

WEEKLY BANK CLEARINGS.

St. Louis Shows an Increase of One and Two-Tenths Per Cent.

New York Oct. 18.—The following table, compiled by Bradstreet, shows the bank clearings at the principal cities for the week ended October 13, with the percentage of increase and decrease, as compared with the corresponding week last year:

City	Total	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
New York	\$1,232,344,394	102	12.5
Boston	176,888,294	102	12.5
Philadelphia	169,454,394	102	12.5
San Francisco	169,454,394	102	12.5
St. Louis	152,500,000	102	12.5
Chicago	146,888,294	102	12.5
Baltimore	146,888,294	102	12.5
Portland	146,888,294	102	12.5
Cincinnati	146,888,294	102	12.5
Cleveland	146,888,294	102	12.5
San Antonio	146,888,294	102	12.5
St. Paul	146,888,294	102	12.5
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