

tion will be dealt with by three experts in international law. Their names are Marten, Rivers and Grau. A conference will be held at Brussels and the whole matter discussed. There seems to be no way for England to get out, except by buying the French interests in George's Bay, or by defending and protecting them according to treaty stipulations. This latter, the Newfoundlanders do not want. They demand that the French be rooted out absolutely.

The Supreme Court of Newfoundland has decided that there is no legislation in existence under which England can enforce treaty rights in that colony. That court further decided that the Queen's prerogative is not sufficient to compel submission to treaty provisions. It requires an act of State to go as far as this, and that means an act of Parliament with all that it embodies. This act both houses in London are trying to pass. Lord Knutsford in the Lords, and James Ferguson in the Commons, are working for the passage of a bill that will empower the Queen to order the navy to enforce French rights in Newfoundland.

The Newfoundland Parliament has refused to enter into any legislation which would recognize French claims. This is rather embarrassing for England. By according treaty rights to France, England drives her own subjects in Newfoundland into revolt. If the bill should pass in the British Parliament, the Conservative ministry will suffer a defeat, and there is a possibility of a general election. The Newfoundlanders are clamoring for annexation with the United States. But should they effect this it would not destroy French rights. The claim would only be transferred from John Bull to Uncle Sam, and the latter would have a lobster on his hands in addition to the seal and codfish.

The whole trouble can be summed up in a few words. By their treaty rights the French have a monopoly of the fishing in George's Bay. Recently they went into lobster canning, and it has become a vast industry. The Newfoundlanders also went into it in what is regarded as French Territory for fishing purposes. The factory of Baird, one of the Britishers, was closed by the Queen's commander of the navy in those waters. The Supreme Court of Newfoundland has decided that the Queen's order was illegal, and beyond her prerogative. This is what perplexes the conservative government and inflames the Newfoundlanders.

The revenue of the mail department of Sweden was 7,268,000 kronor during 1890.

WAR PROSPECTS AND "LYNCH LAW."

THE Italian Government is either somewhat ignorant of the constitutional organization of the United States, or it is desirous of picking a quarrel. The recalling of the Italian minister indicates one or the other of these conditions.

The Government of the United States cannot give the guarantee which seems to be required by Italy, for the reason that each State in the Union has complete jurisdiction over the making and administration of its own criminal laws. The General Government cannot interfere with this. If a crime has been committed in New Orleans the State of Louisiana must see to it that its laws in relation to that offense are enforced.

Italy will have to learn that the respective States in the American Union are not mere provinces of a Sovereign Power, but each a complete government within its own sphere, though united with other sovereignties equal with itself and together forming a nation. The Government of the United States can no more interfere with the administration of the laws of Louisiana, than that State can interfere with the authority of the United States. Each is supreme within its own legitimate sphere.

The demand, therefore, which it appears Italy has made upon the United States, is simply impossible to comply with. And the Governor of Louisiana can only agree to see that the laws of the State are enforced. This must be done in a way provided by the laws of the State, and legal investigation with a view to this is now in progress. The grand jury is inquiring into the matter and quite likely will indict a number of persons for the killing of the Italians who were lynched on the 14th of March. Whether a jury can be found to convict them remains to be seen.

If the Italian Government understands the constitution of the American system, the demand made is unreasonable. It requires something beyond the legitimate power of the United States to perform. Nothing more can be legally done than that which is in process. The captious spirit shown by Italy, therefore, is belligerent in its indications, and gives rise to the suspicion that stronger Powers are behind it in this dispute. It is hardly reasonable to think that Italy, singlehanded, would try to provoke hostilities with the United States.

The new alliance between Russia and France may have precipitated fresh combinations among other European governments. If England

and Germany should have formed an offensive and defensive alliance with Italy—Austria and Turkey being not improbable adjuncts—the bumpiousness of Italy in the present little difficulty would be easily accounted for. The United States with France and Russia on the one hand, and the Powers we have named on the other, would form mighty opposing forces that could shake the very earth and wage a war, far unparalleled in the history of the world.

But we see at present no need and but small probabilities of further extreme measures, over the dispute between Italy and the United States. The Italian government has probably taken action to please the populace, and show that it is in earnest in protecting its citizens abroad. Only three of the slain Sicilians were Italian subjects, and it is not clear that even they were; the others had been naturalized in this country and were out of the guardianship of their former government. The whole affair will most likely be settled without recourse to arms. A war over it would be ridiculous in principle, though it might be very serious in its results.

The only proper thing to do now in regard to this unfortunate occurrence is to let the law take its course. True, it is quite doubtful that the mob that lynched the Italians, or any of the leaders, will be punished for their crime. It is unlikely that a jury could be impaneled in Louisiana that would convict them of murder. But they cannot be tried in any other State, nor can they be tried by the United States, any more than they could by a foreign court or nation. Louisiana alone can vindicate its own honor by the enforcement of its own laws.

The slaughter of those Italians was a crime if the word has not lost its meaning. Every plea that has been made in its justification is an argument in support of lawlessness, and is weakened by the doubt that hangs over all that is alleged to excuse the deed. It has not been proved that the accused men killed Hennessy. It has not been proved that they belonged to the "Mafia." It has not been proved that the secret society of that name is a combination for murder. It has not been proved that the jury were bribed to acquit the defendants. But it is a fact that these persons were tried and not found guilty. Killing them was therefore unlawful, by whomsoever performed, and if law is of any value the act was a crime.

The plea that all power is in the people and that when courts fail the