

strengthened to prevent any more attempts at invasion from that quarter. President Borgan has assured the government of Salvador that he will prevent any such movement. He was probably influenced by President Ezeta's demands. Honduras is not altogether quiet and it is safe to say that if President Borgan desires to remain at the head of his government he will have to keep an eye on revolutionary characters at home, without interfering in the affairs of Salvador.

President Carlos Ezeta, if he had any enemies at home at the beginning of the war with Guatemala, has brought them all to his side by his firm stand and his victories over his enemies. Now all the inhabitants within the borders of Salvador are solid for him, and his election to the presidency in the coming election is assured. Everything is quiet in the republic and will unquestionably remain so. It was rumored here today that President Ezeta was becoming uneasy and had declared that if peace was not brought about within three days he would order the army of occupation to move on Guatemala's capital.

City of Guatemala, August 16.—It is said here that Minister Mizner, while in Salvador, received instructions from the United States Government regarding the latter's mediation in the Guatemala-Salvador troubles. It was reported that the Guatemala and Salvadorian governments had been told that the United States would view with displeasure any effort on the part of either of those two countries to bring into play any diplomacy on the part of the European powers in bringing about a settlement of the difficulties between them, that the United States considered that the settlement of the trouble belonged exclusively to the nations of the Western Continent. Much credence is placed here in this report. It is also said that the government does not relish the idea of exclusiveness on the part of the United States, as she has always looked upon the European Diplomatic Corps as a sort of stand-by in cases of trouble where she has not desired to make a direct appeal to the United States. While active hostilities have been suspended now about three weeks the army of Guatemala has been constantly recruited until there are now, it is claimed, about forty thousand men at the front. When President Barrillas went on his tour of inspection he took with him 12,000 more men. It was claimed that President Barrillas is soon to go to the frontier, and will make his headquarters for the present at Jutiapa, on the frontier, not far from the line, a good point from which to watch and direct the movements of the army attacking Santa Ana. He will be accompanied by a number of Americans as his bodyguard, a measure of considerable prudence on his part. Another company of Americans are giving the president important service as a telegraphic corps, keeping up connection with the front.

While these figures may prove to

be a little exaggerated it is certain the army of Guatemala has been largely added to, until there is now a formidable force on the frontier, as compared with that of Honduras, and with about three times as many soldiers against him as he has in his own army and with the United States in a threatening attitude on the other side, General Ezeta's position is not an enviable one.

City of Mexico, August 16.—A dispatch from Teguelgaipa says that in answer to General Ezeta's request that Honduras explain her attitude in the present difficulty, Senor Seelaya, the secretary of foreign affairs, has answered as follows: It is true that Honduras has placed and is still placing troops on the Honduras-Salvador frontier. This has been done for four reasons: First, you called to arms and armed Honduras refugees, inciting them to invade Honduras because Honduras refused to recognize the state of affairs brought on by Gen. Ezeta in Salvador on the night of June 22d.

Second—The unjustified, illegal treatment accorded Honduras by your government, even to shooting, by order of Colonel Bremen, of Calixto Acosta, a peaceful citizen of Honduras, at San Antonio Norte, which was a flagrant violation of all international right and law.

Third—Salvador suspended, without right or justice, all cable communications between Honduras and the United States and Europe, to the detriment of commerce and industry.

Fourth—Salvador ordered the suspension of commercial, postal and telegraphic communication between Salvador and Honduras. These facts are the cause of the present attitude of Honduras, and until Salvador changes her tactics or peace be arranged, Honduras, as a sister and friend of Guatemala, will conserve and strengthen the attitude adopted by Guatemala against Salvador.

#### ENCROACHMENT OF THE SEA ON THE NORTH AMERICAN COAST.

It appears that historical records, submerged forests and meadows, geographical configuration, the phenomena of structural geology, the principles of dynamic geology and topographic forms, all attest that in portions of the Atlantic and Gulf slopes the sea is encroaching upon the land. This evidence is not indeed all equally clear and apposite. The historical evidence is weak in quality because of the inaccuracy of early surveys, early tide marks, and early records of all kinds; but its volume is vast. Even by itself the historical record shows that, albeit imperceptible in a single year, the advance of the sea is considerable when decades are compared, and enormous when comparison is made between centuries. The evidence of submerged forests and meadows has not always been interpreted alike; but the cases are legion, their significance often unmistakable, and in the best observed regions the testimony is conclusive.

The evidence of geographic configuration—of drowned rivers, half-flooded islands, and outlying keys—proves that the land is either recently submerged or is now sinking. The evidence of structural geology, and particularly of the dearth of alluvial in the absence of deltas at the mouths of mud-charged streams, is of like tenor and value. The value of the evidence of dynamic geology depends upon the validity of the Powellian principle, which all competent authorities accept, though some might question its quantitative sufficiency in the given case. The evidence of geomorphology—of the forms of hills and the features of plains—is eminently apposite, clear and conclusive; it applies not only to the coast, but to the entire coastal plain; and it might be made to give rude measure of the rate and amount of the earth movement. But, however, the several lines be weighed, the evidence is consistent and cumulative, and permits no escape from the conclusion that certain portions of our coast are yielding before advancing seas. On reviewing the sum of evidence by areas, it is found to prove oceanic encroachment along the Atlantic coast from Sandy Hook to Cape Henry, and along the Gulf coast between the mouth of the Mississippi and Mobile Bay; to suggest a like condition all the way from Cape Cod to Cape Fear; and to give little indication as to the change in the relations of sea and land about the shores of the Florida peninsula. Concerning the northern New England coast, the western Gulf coast, and rugged promontories and flat sand beaches of the Pacific coast, where the records are scanty or equivocal, "this deponent saith not."

Men who hunt the shores for pleasure or for profit, naturally inquire the rate at which the sea is encroaching upon their domain. The cautious estimate of the rate at which the New Jersey coast is sinking made by the official geologist of that State, is two feet per century. Now the mean seaward slope of the coastal plain, including its subaerial and submerged portions, is perhaps six feet per mile; so that each century's sinking would give a third of a mile, and each year a rod, of lowland to the ocean; and this would appear to be below the rate of encroachment indicated by comparison of maps. This is probably the maximum rate for this country. Pending further observation and the scanning of other records, little more can be said. Men of maritime lands naturally inquire whether the continent settles easily and uniformly, or whether it descends by successive starts at intervals; for rapid mass movement in the earth is justly believed to beget the earthquake, and perchance the tidal wave; but upon this point the evidence and science (aside from hypothetical presumption in favor of *per saltum* movement) are silent. Last Island was indeed overwhelmed when, after a ten days' northeaster which forced the Gulf waters off-shore and allowed the water-heavy silts and sands to settle in the lighter air, the