DESERET EVENING NEWS: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1906.



PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING. (Sunday excepted.) Corner of South Temple and East Temple Birects, Salt Lake City, Utah.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES. (in Advance:) One Year Six Months Three Months One Month **************************** Correspondence and other reading mat-

Address all business communications and all remittances: THE DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Entered at the Postoffice of Sait Lake City as second class matter according to the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

SALT LAKE CITY, - AUGUST 1, 1906

THE DRAGO DOCTRINE.

One of the important subjects that will be discussed at the Pan-American Congress, at Rio de Janeiro, is the socalled Drago doctrine. It derives its name from its author, Dr. Louis M. Drago, foreign minister of Argentina. Briefly stated, it teaches that no nation shall have the right of forcibly collecting a debt due to its private citizens, from any other nation.

This doctrine seems to be quite popular in some of the South American republies, but it has never been formally adopted by any of the larger powers of the world. In 1902 European powers sent a joint fleet to collect some debts from Venezuela. The United States acquiesced in these proceedings and merely sent her warships into Venesuelan waters in order to see that the Monroe doctrine was not violated. The attitude of the United States at that time inspired some of the South American republics with alarm. They had supposed that we would accept the Drago doctrine as a corollary to the Monroe doctrine, and were disappointed when they found their mistake. Hence the anxiety of having the question brought up before the Pan-American congress, and passed upon by that body.

Some of the delegates desire the question referred from the Pan-American congress to the Hague tribunal, but this is objected to by others, on the ground that that tribunal is controlled by representatives of countries interested in a decision contrary to the doctrine in question. They prefer to treat the matter as purely American.

The Drago doctrine will in all probability not be formally accepted by the Pan-American congress. Foreign creditors, assuming that the South American courts cannot be trusted to do justice to them, prefer that their governments act as collection agents in every case where the citizens of a weak country are involved. They would not urge such a procedure against the citizens of a country that has ample means of defense. It should be unnecessary to say that a smaller

country should have the same rights as a large and stronger nation. There

treatment of them. To that extent the Drago doctrne certainly is correct, and can be accepted.

at Rio de Janeiro, although not referring to the Drago doctrine, admitted this when he declared that, "We deem the independence and rights of the smallest and weakest member of the family of nations entitled to as much respect as those of the greatest emptre.'

CONTRADICTORY VIEWS.

The opinion concerning the future of San Francisco are very conflicting. owing to the various points of view from which the situation is regarded. said

"Despite the many things written to the contrary, these are gluony days in San Francisco. The disposition to leave the city continues, and while optimistic people claim that there are re than 100,000 persons there now others believe that 70,000 would be nearer the mark. No official effort has been made to get at the exact figures. An early boom in real estate has quite subsided. The strike of the coast sailors, the plumbers and the truck drivers has proved a most dis couraging element in the situation. Still further to depress the outlook. landlords are raising rents, merchants are raising prices, and the cost of building material is doubling. Mean-while Seattle is reaping great advant-age from San Francisco's disaster, and is going ahead with great strides. Oakland is also proceeding, and her Oakland is also prospering, and her business leaders are trying to get a lot of San Francisco's business on the claim that Oakland has the water frontage and the railroad facilities. The problem of the great relief fund at San Francisco is still most difficult to handle, and the many complications of the situation increase rather than

Mr. E. H. Harriman in Sunset Mogmade more heautiful than it was hes lisin. made safe. He says, in part:

provide cleaver avenues of intercom-munication. As with Chicago and Baltimore, so the destructive fire in San Francisco will be in the end the foundation for a finer and a greater city, which within a reasonable length of time will reach in progress a point far beyond that occupied before the earthquake and fire. The courage, common sense and charity that this crisis proved are possessed by the citizens of Ean Francisco are of far more value to the city than the material greatness destroyed."

If the experience of other citles that have been visited by fire and carthquakes is taken into account, it must be admitted that the optimisile view has very much in its favor. Earthquakes have not, in modern history, permanently affected the welfare of any city. Lishon, so often quoted by acribes, recovered promptly from her great calamity and gained by her loss, for Lisbon is now a city beautiful and potential. New Zealand has also suffered from earth disturbances, yet her progress has been unchecked.

Again, if the natural position of San Francisco is considered, it is safe to say that its future is assured. But rumor has it that the earth is concursors of a final catastrophe.



