

MUST GO TO THE BALLOTS.

THE election returns of Salt Lake County seem to be in some respects "considerably mixed." Further particulars of the canvass will be found in another column. It looks as though the Board of Canvassers will have to go to the ballot boxes to determine questions that have been raised. And perhaps the disputes that have arisen cannot be fully settled without resort to the courts.

The following, from the Compiled Laws of Utah, define the powers of the Board of Canvassers in regard to this matter. By substituting the Board for the County Court and the clerk of the County Court, the language of the section will be fully understood, this Board being appointed by the Utah Commission under the Edmunds Act, to take the place of the County Court for this purpose:

"On receipt of the ballot boxes, and returns of election, the clerk of the county court, in the presence of, at least, one member of the county court, who is not publicly known as a candidate voted for at such election, shall break the seal of the returns, and all candidates may be present as provided in section fifteen of this act, and said clerk and member or members of the county court shall carefully examine the returns; and if no irregularity or discrepancy appear therein, affecting the result of the election of any candidate, they shall accept said returns as correct; but if the right of any person voted for, for any office, is in any way affected, then the clerk and said members of the county court, shall open the ballots from said precinct and canvass the same, so far as to determine the rights of the person whose office may be affected. They may also cause to appear before them any persons whom they deem proper, and take their testimony in relation to said election, in said precinct."

SKETCH OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN WAR.

THE following statistics relative to the republics of Central America are given in a recent work, and are probably substantially correct: Guatemala: Area, 40,777 square miles; population 1,200,000. Honduras: Area, 58,163 square miles; population, 400,000. San Salvador: Area, 7,500 square miles; population, 600,000. Nicaragua: Area, 58,000 square miles; population, 250,000. Costa Rica: Area, 22,000 square miles; population, 187,000.

For a long time the statesmen, such as they have been, of these five small republics have dreamed of a federation, modeled after the United States. Within the last two years public opinion in all but one of them had turned

overwhelmingly in favor of a union, and about a year or so ago a convention was held at which a federal constitution was discussed, and, as was generally understood, perfected. The treaty of coalition was signed, in October of last year, by all five of the states concerned, subject to a ratification fixed for Sept. 15, 1890. The congress which formulated it sat at Salvador, and a celebration was had there in honor of its adoption, that state apparently leading in the enthusiasm which favored the union movement.

It seems, however, that in the republic of San Salvador there existed a faction which was extreme in its hostility to the proposed federation. In the interest, as is supposed, of this faction, President Menendez was, on June 22, assassinated, and immediately thereafter, General Ezeta seized the reins of government, virtually, it would seem, in the capacity of a dictator, though without assuming that title. Ezeta was regarded by the rest of the republics as the representative of the anti-union element, and Guatemala took the lead in demanding that he vacate the position of power he had seized. President Barrillas, of the last named state, seems to have taken the ground that the union of the five republics had actually been consummated, and that the assassination of President Menendez in San Salvador, by the anti-unionists of the latter state, and the seizure of the government by Ezeta, their recognized head, constituted secession, or rebellion against the federation. With more or less cordial support from Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Guatemala, under the leadership of her president, Barrillas, made preparations to put down the revolution in San Salvador and restore to power the party which favored the federation.

In pursuance of this purpose, Barrillas, about the middle of July, invaded San Salvador, not expecting to meet with much resistance, and evidently supposing that the unionists of the latter state would co-operate with him in great strength, and that it would be an easy task to suppress Ezeta and his following. But a bitter disappointment was in store for him. Ezeta seems, by some means, to have captured the popular support of his country, and he repelled Barrillas' invasion with great loss to the latter. Not only this, but he pressed Barrillas back towards his own capital, and in battle

after battle defeated him, several times with terrible loss to the Guatemalans. General Antonio Ezeta, a younger brother of President Ezeta, had immediate command of the Salvadoran army, and displayed the qualities of a brave and able general.

No statement, approaching completeness, has been made in the press dispatches of the particulars of the assassination of President Menendez, of San Salvador, nor of the progress of the revolution in that country which resulted in placing the elder Ezeta at the head of state affairs, and his brother Antonio at the head of the army. The inference to be drawn from information which has been furnished concerning these events is that they were brought about by the determined action of the anti-unionists of that country. President Ezeta, so far as appears, has refrained from all attempts at explaining or justifying the death of his predecessor, the nearest approach to such an utterance from him being in a communication sent by him to Barrillas just before the first battle occurred, in which he said:

"San Salvador is a sovereign state, and knows how to act without interference or intervention of any other power, be it great or small. Still, in deference to her sister republics, it most courteously yet firmly declines to receive instructions from Guatemala. Guatemala must recollect that in 1887 her president, then and now, declared himself dictator, and neither President Barrillas nor his government would brook the interference of any other nation as to his actions. San Salvador is only passing that transitory state through which Guatemala passed in 1887. I, as provisional president of San Salvador, am only following in the footsteps of President Barrillas, and I do not see that he need complain of what he himself has done and for which he received the approbation of his country. My country is my judge, and it is for her people to judge of my actions and not for outsiders. While desiring to preserve peace with all her sister republics, San Salvador is fully prepared to defend her own national honor when the time shall present itself."

The real attitude of each of the three republics not directly involved in the war, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, is a matter of uncertainty. That Guatemala believed they would sustain her in the effort to maintain the federation there is no doubt; but so far they have not done much in that direction, having left Guatemala to maintain the contest alone so far. The fact probably is that there is so much internal dissension in each of them that the present government of neither cares to adopt a decisive policy, particularly one looking to participation in the war.