

zuelan controversy. This publication is an old blue book containing the original report of Schomburgk on the boundary question between Great Britain and Venezuela. From the statements of this botanist and explorer, together with maps made in 1841, it appears that Great Britain only claimed the land now in dispute, but exercised no jurisdiction over it.

"A year before, in 1840, a British court in session at Demerara rendered a decision which is pertinent as well as important at this time. An offense had been committed on the Moroco river, which is a considerable distance east of the land now in controversy, and the prisoner was brought before the court. That tribunal held promptly that he could not be held for the reason that the offense with which he stood charged, had been committed in foreign territory over which the court had no jurisdiction."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Secretary Herbert has practically concluded to award the contract for the construction of battleships 5 and 6 to the Newport News Dry Dock and Ship Building company of Virginia, at their bid of \$2,250,000 for each ship. It was found upon a careful inspection of the law authorizing the construction of the ships that the department could not go behind the face of the bids, so it was not possible to allow the other bidders to scale down their bids to meet the low bid of the Newport News company, save with their consent.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—A local paper publishes the details of the new co-operative colony, now being projected in California. The paper says: "The plan is the result of the observations of William E. Smith, editor of the Irrigation Age, and for two years president of the National Irrigation congress, which has for its object, primarily, the reclaiming of so-called arid lands by irrigation, and secondary the establishment of agricultural and manufacturing communities.

The site of the proposed colony is the Ashurst ranch in the Sacramento valley in northern California.

It is a tract of 10,000 acres, the property of C. B. Ashurst, one of the California pioneers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The Herald correspondent in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, sends an important dispatch concerning the situation there growing out of the Triunfo question. He says it is well known there that President Morias favors arbitration with England, but is afraid to declare his views, owing to the hostility of the army. It is believed that the cabinet will favor a report to Congress urging that the matter be submitted to a friendly power for adjustment.

HAVANA, Dec. 26.—Since the arrival here last night of Capt.-Gen. Martinez de Campos from Matanzas, he has been in conference with leading military and naval officers, the civil dignitaries and the leaders of the different political parties. They assembled at the palace last night, and in the course of a number of patriotic speeches pledged their unconditional support to the government in its efforts to suppress the insurrection, and promised to do everything possible in the way of moral and actual assistance.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—A special to the Journal from Salvador says: "The

soldiers in garrison at Sonohat have been dissatisfied for a long time because they are unpaid, and on the 19th Colonel Rivera ordered a soldier to be bucked, gagged and beaten, the soldier dying under the lash. The soldiers forced Colonel Rivera and twenty-four officers to stand in line and shot them.

The soldiers left the bodies of their victims lying where they fell, and under command of Captain Rozas, they marched toward the coast yelling "Viva la revolution; viva Antonio Ezeta."

It is believed these men are now near the coast, awaiting the arrival of Ezeta's ship.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 26.—A special to the Bee from Seward, Neb., says: The east-bound Burlington passenger collided with a west-bound freight this afternoon. Engineer Reed of the freight was instantly killed. The passenger engineer was seriously injured. Two passengers, a little girl and an old man, were dangerously hurt, the child being frightfully burned by being thrown under a stove. Other passengers were injured.

MADRID, Dec. 27.—An earthquake has been experienced in the districts of Orensa, Vienna, Pueblo de Tribes, Lugudino and Valdorreas, the province of Galicia. Several houses collapsed, but no deaths are reported.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—A special from Spokane, Wash., says:

Mrs. Susie Hess, of Pueblo, Colo., arrived in this city last night and today made known to the authorities her belief that her father, mother, sister and brother have been murdered. Mrs. Hess's husband died recently and her parents, who resided at Ellensburg, wrote for her to come and live with them.

Two weeks ago she arrived unexpectedly at Ellensburg only to find that her father had sold out his business, and with his family had started across the country, to Lewiston, Idaho. She went to that place, but found no trace of her relatives, except that their goods had arrived. She then returned to Ellensburg, and engaging a guide, started out on the trail of her parents. She readily traced them as far as the foothills of the Cascade range, when all trace of them disappeared. For days she continued the search, but without avail. She finally came to this city to enlist the aid of the authorities in the search. The neighborhood in which the family disappeared is a rendezvous for cattle rustlers, and as her father, P. Donnelly, was known to have had considerable money with him it is the impression that the entire family has been murdered.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—Judge Morrow rendered an important opinion in the United States district court today on the writ of habeas corpus asked for by Gee Hop, a Chinaman, who arrived from Peking three months ago and was refused permission to land, although he had papers showing that he had been naturalized by a New Jersey court. Commissioner Hancock, who took evidence in the case, recommended that Gee Hop be remanded "for the reason that there was no law conferring the right of naturalization upon Mongolians or natives of China; that the judgment of the court of common pleas of New Jersey naturalizing Gee Hop was absolutely null and void

for want of jurisdiction, and that therefore Gee Hop was and is not a citizen of the United States, as claimed by him, and cannot be permitted to land in this country."

"In this conclusion," Judge Morrow said, "I heartily agree. The matter of naturalization is exclusively within the control of the government of the United States, and not of the states."

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A special from Washington to a local paper says:

The President has invited Richard H. Alvey of Maryland, the present chief justice of the court of appeals of the District of Columbia, to serve as a member of the Venezuelan commission.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—If the regents of the University of California and the Oklahoma board of education give their consent a party of four astronomers will leave for Japan on May 28th to take observations and photographs of the total eclipse of the sun that will take place on August 9th. More than usual interest attaches to the expedition because Prof. Chas. Burkhalter, of the Chabot observatory, Oakland, has invented an ingenious photographic apparatus, with which it is said that results never before attained in pictures of the sun's corona will be secured.

The party of astronomers is made up of Prof. J. M. Schaeberle of the Lick observatory, Prof. Burkhalter, Dr. G. E. Shuey and Louis Masten.

The reason the party will go to Japan is that the northern part of that country is the nearest place where the eclipse will be total.

HAVANA, Dec. 29.—Last night's demonstration of political parties in honor of Gen. Campos proved the grandest popular outburst of sympathy toward the Spanish cause that has ever taken place in Havana. Conservatives, autonomists, reformists, Spaniards, Cubans, men, women and everybody united in a great brotherhood. About 40,000 people in all took part in the demonstration.

HAVANA, Dec. 29.—In spite of the reports received here yesterday, that the main body of insurgents had retreated from the province of Matanzas and are once more in Santa Clara, reports still continue to come in of damage done at various parts in Matanzas, and of the threatening movements of bodies of insurgents. Whether these were wandering and isolated bands cannot be said accurately.

Uneasiness is also caused in official circles by reports coming from the province of Santiago de Cuba. The report of Jose Maceo's flight, which was received here, seems to have been without foundation, as there are renewed evidences of his activity in that province, and troops stationed there are finding abundant occupation. The Spanish authorities have reason to suspect that a movement is contemplated in the Oriental province (Santiago de Cuba) to bring about a junction of the insurgent bands there, and troops are actively engaged in trying to prevent the coming together of Jose Maceo and Raul, whose combined forces would effect a diversion and prevent the withdrawal of Spanish troops to reinforce those acting against Gomez in Matanzas and Santa Clara provinces.