TELEGRAPHIC.

A POLITICAL GAME.

Intrigues to Detach Italy From the Dreibund.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT AFRAID.

The African Situation Generally Regarded as Very Serious—Trouble Looked For.

PARIS, March 18.—The French government gives evidence tonight that the announcement by M. Berthelot yesterday of the reinstatement he had offered against the Egyptian campaign up the Nile has been much more serious than it was. The outbreak of approval from the French press and people and the popular clamor for even more decisive measures of protest seem to have alarmed the government and awakened an apprehension that they are being precipitated into a position of hostility to the plan of Great Britain, backed by the approval of the Dreibund, which might entail the gravest consequence. The enthusiasm awakened in France, in fact, seems to order more into the apprehension of the French mind than the British spread.

As a consequence steps have been taken to shift a little the seemingly very edge of the communication made to the British ambassador. The following explanation, with its distinct tones of depreciation, is made officially tonight. Yesterday's note was merely a short and rapidly drafted summary of the objections which France could it necessary to formulate in view of the unexpected and sudden decision of Great Britain. France also intended unequivocally to intimate that she did not intend to ignore the matter. But this in no wise implies a hostile attitude. To the contrary, they think, in view of the mutual friendly relations, the frank and outspoken language will contribute to the removal of misunderstandings.

"The interview between M. Berthelot and the Marquis of Dufferin was one of the friendliest character. It was pointed out that it was incumbent on the guardians of the Egyptian fund to ascertain the necessity for any action entailing large outlays, and that it was preferable that the attitude to be taken should be defined at the outset, instead of being left in doubt."

The serious impression produced by M. Berthelot's note on the Soudan situation continues this evening. It would seem that the Dreibund had practically triumphed, and there will be no serious opposition on the part of France, to British advance upon the Nile.

The Journal declares that Russia and France are not completely in accord with Egypt. Has this any more little or no far as interfering with the plans of the Marquis of Salisbury is concerned.

The Figaro says: "Great Britain's attitude is an outrage upon Europe and is virtually a breach of faith. The Marquis of Salisbury is more deeply committed than he willed through the action of Baron Cromer (the British diplomatic agent in Egypt), who by sending a small force up the Nile, instead of sending 20,000 men necessary to capture Dongola, together a reverse, which will involve the sending of reinforcements of British troops to the front, and the consequent prolonging of the occupation of Egypt by the British troops."

The Estafette expresses the opinion that the interview between M. Berthelot and the Marquis of Dufferin "proves that France is not disposed to encourage a policy which does not sufficiently respect French interests in Egypt, and she has many reasons for objecting to Great Britain engaging in a great adventure which she considers unjustifiable, and which is disquieting the European chancelleries."

The Matin says: "In refusing to allow the Egyptian funds to be expended on the expedition from which Great Britain alone would benefit, France has placed the latter country in an awkward position and one from which she cannot escape."

On the top of the last mentioned quotation however, came a dispatch to Berlin this morning saying that the "North German Gazette announces that Great Britain has asked the powers sharing in the control of the Egyptian debt administration to allow her to use a portion of the reserve fund to defray the cost of the expedition to Dongola, which at present is estimated to amount to only about $2,500,000, and that Germany, having ascertained that her acceptance of the proposal would accord with the views of the other governments forming the Dreibund, particularly the Italian cabinet, has instructed the German commissioner of the public debt at Cairo accordingly.

This, of course, places Great Britain before the world as being again supported by Germany, and must tend to upset the calculations of the statesmen here who have, in spite of the recent conference at Berlin, been hugging themselves with the belief that the agreement between the Kaiser and Great Britain growing out of the Transvaal incident, was so deeply rooted that there was a probability of an alliance between Germany, France and Russia against Great Britain, particularly as to the latter's colonial policy in Africa. For them, the North German Gazette's announcement, if true, would prove a rude awakening to the realities of the situation which has grown out of the terrible defeat of the Italian army at Adowa, and the subsequent humiliation of the Dreibund at Berlin.

There is, however, another feature in the game being played between the powers at the present moment. Advices received here from Rome today say that France and Russian agents are actively intriguing there in efforts to detach Italy from the Dreibund. It is asserted that these agents have spent a great deal of money in order to assist in bringing about the overthrow of Crispi, the late premier, who was known to be a staunch adherent to the Dreibund, and, incidentally, to help the anti-Italian party of the Marquis di Rudini, who is reported to be doing everything possible to influence the Italian cabinet to effect a change in its foreign policy, which would detach Italy from her allies. But even the most sanguine politicians of the French capital doubt if anything will be accomplished in this direction, especially after the honor bestowed upon King Menelik by the czar, and the clear evidence in the possession of the Italian government that French and Russian agents have for a long time past been actively and continually assisting the Abyssinians with arms and ammunition, thereby enabling them with improved arms and ammunition.

If Italy detaches herself from the Dreibund she must be so to one side or the other of the present year, on which day notice must be given by any power desiring to withdraw from the Dreibund, otherwise the "bond of the three powers" continues for another six years.

The government and people of France are beginning to realize that the recent conference at Berlin between the Austrian minister of foreign affairs, Count Lamsdorff, Prince Hohenlohe, the Russian and the emperor of Germany, and with Great Britain a party to the understandings arrived at, has more significance than was generally attributed by the press or public at the time. The rearrangement of the Dreibund, with Great Britain as an active member and a party to the arrangements, was evidently only the first step in the direction of attempting to make alterations in the map of Africa, with the consequent stripping of the Dreibund, this being looked upon as being the price agreed upon with Great Britain for the latter's support of Italy and incidentally of the Dreibund.

But behind the scenery so carefully arranged at Berlin there is, it is believed by the government and press here, a great deal going on, regarding which explanations must be promptly forthcoming by Great Britain or serious trouble may follow. In fact, if the Temps correspondent of the Figaro is to be believed, matters have already reached such a dangerous stage that orders are expected at any moment for the French Levant's squadron to proceed to Egyptian waters.

A HOT BATTLE.

Details of a Fight With Cuban Rebels.

HAVANA, March 18.—A hot battle between the forces of Col. Fernandez and insurgents under Banner and Quintin Banderas in the neighborhood of Candelaria and Pinar del Rio. The insurgent loss is reported to have been 300 killed and wounded. Of the troops Capt. Guerrero was killed and fifty-six wounded. The official report also says that five soldiers were killed and fifty-six wounded. The details of the battle are rather meager.

The insurgents to the number of 4,000 were awaiting the advance of the troops on a farm. As they came up at a rapid gallop the insurgents opened fire along an extensive line which had been disposed between the house along the road and parallel to it. The column in the rear joining into action, the whole line of troops was involved. The artillery threw grapeshot over the insurgents. With advanced, numbers in sand. The movement of the insurgents was thus held in check, but now forces closing in their attempt, they but upon the Spanish column in a fierce attack. This attack was also checked, says the official report, giving the victory to the Spanish troops and terminating the engagement after two hours' fighting.

The Produce Exchange now has adopted a resolution to telegraph to President Diaz of Mexico, thanking him for his action in offices on the subject of Cuban belligerency. Over 500 signatures of prominent merchants have been attached to the telegram.

The governor of Havana has prohibited the entrance of newspapers from expressing sympathetic towards the government.

Alleged Murderers Captured.

DENVER, March 18.—A special to the Republican from Grand Junction, Mesa county, says that Joe Grant, Pete Lamoreaux and O'Neil, two of the alleged murderers of Jim Wasmuer, the young Steamboat sheriff, have been captured in the mountains near Mesa. They will be arraigned before United States Commissioner Cockrill in this city tomorrow, and then taken back to Wyoming.

WEYLER'S POSITION.

He Not Have to Resign His Position, He Says.

MADRID, March 18.—In an interview of Gen. Weyler, published here, the captain general is quoted as expressing surprise at the charges made against him in the United States. His view of his great predecessor pending settlement of the question of belligerency.

Gen. Weyler is also credited with having said the attitude of Congress stops the normal development of the war.

Continuing, the interviewer states that Gen. Weyler says that numbers of persons are joining the insurgents from all parts of Cuba, and from the capital, because they know they may well be considered as belligerents.

In conclusion Weyler is said to have intimated that he is confident of the eventual success of the Spanish cause, but the "continuity demands of patience and extreme measures, combined with the difficulties arising from the question of belligerency and the elections," may compel him to resign.

NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

Provisions Agreed on by the Committee Relating the Safety in Stock.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The Nicaragua canal bill, which probably will be pushed in the House, was agreed upon today by the special subcommittee which has for several weeks wrestled with the many vexatious questions involved.

Mahon of Pennsylvania is the author of the plan which meets the views of the committee, for the bill adopted is one introduced by him at the beginning of the session, and the amendments were made to it. Government control, with possible ownership by the United States in the future is the vital principle of the bill. Government ownership at present was thought impossible. It is thought by Mahon and other members of the committee that National and Costa Rica might consent to ownership by the United States, but several years—Mahon says not less than six years—will be required to enable the necessary legislation from them.

The bill provides for the reorganization of the Maritime Canal company, the payment of all its debts so that a satisfactory settlement shall be presented to the secretary of the treasury, the selection of a board of directors, one of them named by the United States, eight by the canal company and one each by Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The issue of bonds may not exceed $100,000,000, with interest at 4 per cent, the bonds to be guaranteed by the United states and received at the pleasure of the government. In consideration for the guarantee of the United States, the United States is to be given the stock of the company to any amount equal to the bonds issued.

The amount of stock to be given the canal company in payment for the expenditure and work so far upon the canal is not to exceed $100,000, three millions of shares is to be issued to the Nicaraguan government, and $1,500,000 to Costa Rica. The bondsare to be secured by the first mortgage for the United States, drawn by the Attorney General. They are only to be issued as they are needed for the work of building the canal, $100,000 to be advanced at the beginning—and the stocks is to be issued in corresponding amounts.

Out of the net earnings the company is to pay, first, the interest of its bonded debt, then a dividend on the stock, not to exceed 5 per cent, and the balance, if any, to go into a sinking fund for the payment of principal and interest of the first mortgage.

The canal is to be built by three engineers of United States army.

The bill will be presented to the Commerce committee on Friday for its approval.

PACIFIC ROADS.

Union Pacific Able to Meet the Requirements of the Funding Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The committee on Pacific railroads of the House gave a hearing today to Gen. Hubbard of New York, then Hubbard spoke at length, in an informal way, to show that the Union Pacific would be able to meet the requirements of the bill which recently explained to the committee. For this purpose he reviewed the statements of earnings made by the company for several year past. He admitted that it might be difficult in the present state of the money market for the company to raise money to carry out the plan, but said it was not necessary to sell bonds this year.

The first mortgage bonds, maturing next July, might be carried at 5 per cent, and similarly the second market would be more favorable in 1897.

Mr. W. S. Pierce, of the Union Pacific reorganization committee, presented a supplementary plan for the committee. It proposed an issue of $50,000,000 bonds—$25,000,000 less than the original plan. The principle of the subsidiaries of the United States would be as before. On January 1, 1897, a sum, which after the sinking fund, would pay the principal of the existing bonds would have on that date and had already matured, and on January 1, 1898, and 1899, the principal of the bonds then maturing, the payments all to be made to stock.

The secretary of the treasury would compute the interest due the government, on the date June 1, 1897, and for the payment fifty-year 5 per cent mortgage bonds would be issued.

A Serious Blow to Spain.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The secretary of the Cuban legation here, Mr. Quesada, has received a telegram announcing the sale arrived in Cuba of Gen. Enrique Callaso with arms and ammunition. This the Cuban officials here regard as serious blow to Spain, for they say that with Gen. Calleo went a number of distinguished officers, among whom is Brigadier Pedro Vergara. The expedition has more than a thousand rifles and $1,000,000 rounds of cartridges.

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