

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The movement initiated by the government of Ecuador for the holding of a congress of representatives of all the republics of the Americas to define and endorse the Monroe doctrine, and to establish closer commercial and political relations between them, is rapidly taking form. The Ecuadorian minister here, Senor Carbo, has freely discussed the subject with the other members of the diplomatic body who come from the South, and today, to give an official character to his mission, he addressed a copy of a circular signed by the minister of foreign affairs of Ecuador to the ministers of all the nations of Central America and sent for transmission to their respective foreign office. A copy was delivered also to Secretary Olney, for it is expected that the United States certainly will be represented, as it was the Pan-American congress.

It is stated by Senor Carbo that while the city of Mexico is suggested as the proper place of meeting, it does not follow that the congress eventually will be held there, for the first opportunity will be offered the nations invited to express their preferences in the matter of a meeting place, and it may be that the city of Washington will be selected. The circular after stating the purpose of holding a general assembly, concludes as follows:

The enlightened government of your excellency is doubtless aware of the necessity of such an assembly as is proposed to decide some points of vital importance, both political and commercial, to all the American republics. At present and in consequence of the development which these republics have received through the efforts of their own children and through the progress necessarily produced by time, study and industry, each one of them has become important, and their mutual interests and even their own safety require that representatives of all of them should meet and discuss and reach an agreement upon all matters relating their welfare and liberty, making, therefore, upon the basis of justice and brotherhood, the public law of America. By so doing greater respectability shall be acquired, conflicts shall be avoided and peace between our republics and the other nations of the world shall be assured.

The following are the fundamental points which will be submitted to the deliberations of this assembly:

The enactment of a public law of America, which, paying due respect to all legitimate rights, should give to the American Monroe doctrine all the extent that it desires and all the guarantee necessary to insure its respect.

Means of promoting progress and the introduction and development of industrial enterprise, of developing commerce by enacting measures conducive to its extent without prejudice to the interests and welfare of each country, and to the rights and relations from country to country, and of taking advantage of everything which, without injury to the other countries of the world, may afford our republics proper means to place upon a firm basis our

commercial relations and to secure their greatest prosperity.

To appoint the time and place where the Congress should hold its future sessions.

As, unfortunately, some differences exist at present between some American republics, owing to special facts of ancient origin, as, for instance, the demarkation of limits, the assembly shall not in any manner or form occupy itself in dealing with these matters, as otherwise serious difficulties might arise and the beneficent labor to be expected from the assembly might be frustrated.

The general scope of the labors of the assembly having been set forth, the assembly shall be left at liberty to decide how long it will remain in session.

The capital of the Mexican republic is suggested as the place where the first meeting of the assembly should be held. The 10th of August of the present year is also suggested as the date of the first meeting. The government of Ecuador has accredited a minister plenipotentiary to the Washington government, who has been given instructions to facilitate the meeting of this assembly.

In a communication addressed to the secretary of state of the United States on the 16th of November, 1895, the following language was used:

"The efforts which the representative of Ecuador must preferably make shall be in the line of extending the political and commercial relations between the two countries and endeavoring to secure for the interests of this continent, through an international congress, all the force of cohesion which is required for the mutual prosperity and for the greatness of the nations of the New World."

Awaiting a favorable answer on the part of the government of the republic of —, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with the greatest consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

IGNACIO ROBLES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 4.—The House committee on public lands today reconsidered its action of last week in adopting a bill to carry out the recommendations of President Cleveland's message that the limitation of five years for bringing suits to annul titles to patents established by the act of March, 1891, be repealed. Another bill embodying the views of different members of the committee and intended to furnish full protection to purchasers in good faith, drawn by Allen, of Utah, was submitted for the first bill. Chairman Lacey will report it to the House. As this legislation may affect the title to 80,000,000 of acres, it has been difficult for the committee to draw a satisfactory bill.

The new bill provides that suits to be brought by the United States to annul patents to lands erroneously issued under a special grant shall only be brought within five years from the passage of the act, and suits to annul patents hereafter issued must be brought within five years after their date. The bill expressly confirms the title of bona fide purchasers, and provides that if any party claiming to be a bona fide purchaser presents his

claim to the secretary of the interior before the institution of a suit to cancel a patent, and his claim is found to be valid, the secretary shall request that suit be brought against the original patentee for a sum not less than the minimum government price for the lands, and not more than the amount paid by the purchasers. Another section makes the courts having jurisdiction over suits under the acts the final authority on the bona fide purchases, and provides that claimants who have not submitted their claims to the secretary of the interior may intervene in suits begun, and have their claims adjudicated by becoming parties in that way to the litigation. The bill also provides that no suit shall be brought to annul patents, when parties have presented claims to be bona fide purchasers, until the secretary has passed upon their claims.

HAVANA, Feb. 4.—The insurgents under the leadership of Nunez attacked a detachment of Spanish troops repairing the railroad between Esperanza and Jicotea, the province of Santa Clara. They made a gallant defense and lost Lieutenant Eduardo Borges, one sergeant and fourteen soldiers killed and had five wounded.

BERNE, Switzerland, Feb. 4.—The federal council has authorized the president of the Swiss republic to accept the proposal tendered by the governments of Great Britain and the United States that, in the event of disagreement as to the choice of an arbitrator for the Canadian sealers' claims, the president of Switzerland shall designate an arbitrator.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—The Daily News gives alleged trustworthy details of the massacres at Oorfa on December 28th and also on October 23rd, according to which 3,500 persons were killed, 1,500 having perished in the great Gregorian church. Syrians and Catholics were spared. The wells of the city were filled with dead bodies. Foreigners, the dispatch says, were protected by a guard placed about the American houses.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Senate in executive session today confirmed the following nominations:

Ignacio Zulpevada, of California, to be secretary of legation of the United States at the City of Mexico.

John A. Marshall, to be United States district judge for the district of Utah.

John W. Judd, to be attorney for the United States for the district of Utah.

Nat M. Brigham, to be United States marshal for the district of Utah.

Hiram A. Seymour, to be second assistant engineer in the revenue cutter service of the United States.

HAVANA, Feb. 4.—A detailed official report has been received tonight of an engagement between Gen. Luque and the forces of Antonio Maceo, which corroborates the first account as to the number of insurgents killed, namely, sixty-two. The battle was fiercely contested and the advantage is claimed to be all on the side of the Spanish. But it is significant that Maceo's forces, instead of being turned back to the westward, proceeded on their way toward Havana province after the battle.

At 5 o'clock Monday morning the Spanish had arrived at the farm of Candelera on their way to San Diego.