

WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

The following are dispatches from various sources in relation to the Central American war:

Guatemala, August 2.—Great difficulty is being experienced by merchants in their means of communication by telegraph, and by letter even. There is no security here in the postoffice department, as the mails, which are directly under government supervision, are being constantly tampered with, letters are opened, read and, if nothing is found in them which displeases the government, they are resealed and forwarded to their destination, but if there is aught that the government does not like, the writer, if the letter is addressed beyond the Guatemalan jurisdiction, is privately sent for and is either sent to prison or banished from the country, if a native of Central America. If a foreigner is the author of the letter, the letter is destroyed and not forwarded to its destination. More than thirty natives have been served in the way just mentioned. Many desertions from the army are reported and several of the culprits have been summarily shot at drum head court-martials.

The revolution in the eastern department of Guatemala has compelled the government to turn its attention to its own affairs in Jutiapa and Chilumilla and to comparatively abandon the campaign against Salvador. The Zacapa revolutionists are said to be marching on toward the port of Livingston, on the Atlantic coast, with the intention of taking possession of that town. There are practically no troops in the department of Livingston, save a few hundred men stationed in the barracks at the port of Livingston.

The people in this capital are loudly clamoring for a change in the Barrillas government, and matters are assuming a very critical state. It is believed that the climax will be reached in a very short time and that President Barrillas and his Cabinet will have to vacate the presidency and party they now hold. Honduras has been called upon by President Barrillas to furnish troops to aid Guatemala in quelling their internal troubles, but President Bogran has sent back word to Barrillas that he (Bogran) does not know how the Guatemalan people will look upon an invasion of Guatemala by Honduras troops. President Bogran told Barrillas that the people of Guatemala might look upon Honduras' assistance to the Guatemalan government in its international affairs as unwarranted intervention, or even as a tacit declaration of war against Guatemala. If President Barrillas obtained formal consent of the Guatemalan people to the step, President Bogran would then furnish the required assistance from Honduras. Barrillas is consequently left practically without the assistance of Honduras.

New York, August 2.—Minister Miner seems to have been responsible to some extent for the seizure of

arms on the steamship *Colima* by the Guatemalan government. This, at least, is what Dr. Cruz, Minister from Guatemala, and Mr. Baiz, the Consul-General say. Dr. Cruz denies that the Pacific Steamship Company made a demand for damages, notwithstanding the positive assertion of President Heaston that the company had presented claims which the government was going to press of \$500,000.

Dr. Cruz said: "The captain of the steamship *Colima* put the arms in question aboard at San Jose of his own free will. Later our government seized them, with the consent of the United States Minister, as well as of the agent of the company; the act was perfectly regular and in accordance with article 17 of the agreement drawn up between the Pacific Mail company and the Guatemalan government. Even if any such demand for damages had been made, I could not fail to know of it in my official position, and assure you that no such action has been taken.

"Let me explain to you exactly what the situation is and the real animus by which the Pacific Mail people are actuated, said Baiz: They know as well as I do that they have no claim for indemnity in this matter of the steamer 'Colima,' yet I think that some of the officers of the company may have made the remarks attributed to them, because they are angry and jealous at the success Guatemala had in raising a loan of \$21,000,000; knowing, as they do, the uses to which that money is to be put. Let me explain why. Those not immediately interested do not know nor can they ever dream of injustice, impositions and extortions put upon Guatemala and other Central American States by this Pacific Mail Company. Why, sir, that company, because its steamship line is a monopoly, and because it has control of the railroad across the isthmus, levies a subsidy of \$70,000 annually from the Central American Republic, of which sum Guatemala pays \$20,000. In return for this the Pacific Mail Company treat us in a most abominable manner. We are compelled to pay \$22 weight per ton for all produce we send from Guatemala to New York, though coffee can be imported from any other part of the globe at from \$4 to \$13 per ton.

Again, let a Guatemalan desire to return home from New York, and he is forced to pay \$150 for his passage to San Jose, while another first class passenger on the same ship pays but \$75 to San Francisco, though the company is compelled to carry him for a voyage longer by two weeks. If a Guatemalan buys his ticket to San Francisco and then tries to land at San Jose de Guatemala, he is forced to stay on the ship. To such injustice and extortion as this must be added the fact that our cargoes are delivered to us in a wretched condition and that we are never able to get any satisfaction from the Pacific Mail Company.

"In view of all this, if we could be sure of any other service we would gladly pay the Pacific Mail

Line \$70,000 a year to stay away from our ports altogether. At last, however, we hope that we are in a position to turn on this company, and it is for that reason that we have raised this \$21,000,000. San Jose is on the Pacific Coast of Guatemala and ninety miles from Guatemala City, which, in turn, is 240 miles from Puerto Barrios, a portion of our Atlantic sea coast. The route between these two points has been carefully surveyed and we now propose to immediately 'build a railroad' between Guatemala City and Puerto Barrios, thus initiating our Atlantic and Pacific coasts and bringing New York ten days nearer than it now is by the Isthmus route. You will readily see that this will pretty effectually kill this branch of the business of the Pacific Mail Company, and it is no wonder that the talk about is demanding \$5,000,000 of me by way of indemnity for an imaginary outrage. They have to do that to cheer up their stockholders and for the sake of effect on the market. The steamers of a French company already touch at Vera Cruz and can easily call at Puerto Bayrios, giving us a direct line to Europe.

This talk of trouble between the United States and Guatemala is all nonsense. It emanates with the Pacific Mail people and exists only in their minds. I think I need say no more and I hope any intelligent person can see how the land lays from the explanation I have given. We have heard nothing new from Guatemala."

City of Mexico, August 4.—An American living in Salvador has sent a dispatch here confirming in every particular the dispatches about Ezeta's victory over Rivas and asserting that the march made by Ezeta, 110 miles, was covered in one day and a half, and the fight took place immediately on the arrival of the troops at the capital, lasting from July 29th to the 31st, inclusive. General Rivas, instead of being captured at the capital, was taken prisoner in Aculvaca, a suburban town, and brought to the capital, with many other leaders of the Indians, and shot. With the death of their leaders, the Indian prisoners of war will join General Ezeta's forces and march against the Guatemalans.

This is assured by Pau. He says that Rivas was idolized by the Indians, but with his death they will look upon his conqueror as their leader. Consequently Antonio Ezeta will take them to the seat of war in Guatemala and incorporate them into regiments with the Salvadorian army, placing, perhaps, 100 with each regiment or battalion. They will be detailed to make night attacks on points of advantage held by the Guatemalans. These attacks will be made with their ugly knives and their charges will probably be such as they will be forced to make them at the point of the bayonet, and will be allowed no firearms. As Ezeta was aware of the methods employed in warfare by the Indians he was able to defeat them. It is believed by M,