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DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

Secretary Blaine Comments on and Corrects Some of Minister Montt's Mistakes.

THE ANSWER OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

Through Minister Egan: The Chilean Government's Side of the Controversy.

By Telegraph to the News.

CHILEAN CORRESPONDENCE.

Minister Montt's Reply to Mr. Egan's Note.

BLAINE TO MONTT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington Jan. 27, 1892.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge your favor dated the 23rd inst., and to express my use with Mr. Egan's letter of the 22nd inst.

I say in reply to your note of the 23rd inst. I have to comment on two or three points.

First—The undersigned has had the honor to receive your excellency's communication dated the 22nd inst., received in this department on the 23rd, and the only authenticated copies of instructions which the honorable secretary of state of Washington has sent to your excellency by cable under dates of the 21st inst. and the 22nd of October, 1891; in the independence of the 23rd inst. the honorable secretary of state informs your excellency that his excellency President Harrison, after carefully examining all that has been submitted to him by the governors of Chile, with respect to the events which occurred in Valparaiso on the evening of the 16th of October, and taking into consideration the testimony of the officers and crew of the vessel 'Baltimore,' and of others who witnessed the event, has arrived at the following conclusion:

"First—That, with respect to that assault, there has been no change whatever made in the character given to it by the first report of the event, that it was an attack upon the uniform of the navy of the United States, which had its origin and motive in a feeling of hostility towards that government, and not in any act of the individual sailors belonging to it.

"Second—That the public authorities of Valparaiso evidently did not in their duty in protecting these sailors, and that part of the police and some Chilean citizens and soldiers rendered themselves guilty of unprovoked assaults on the sailors of the United States, before and after the latter were arrested. And he believes that Riggin was killed by the police or soldiers, and

"Third—That he is consequently compelled to carry the question back to the State in which it was placed by the Hon. Mr. Winston, dated October 4th, and to ask for explicit satisfaction and some adequate reparation for the injury done to the Government of the United States.

"The Honorable Secretary of State, Blaine, regrets that the government of Chile has not, from the first, duly appreciated the gravity of the question raised, and that it has attributed to it no other importance than that of an ordinary quarrel between sailors, and feeling that no government which respects itself can consent to civil or military persons employed in its service being maltreated or killed, by foreign territory, on account of resentment for acts which it may have committed, or which may be imputed to it, without requiring adequate reparation.

"The Honorable Blaine, in this connection, avails the fact that the government of the United States have voluntarily recognized this principle, and have accordingly, when injury has been committed by its people against any one holding an official position of a foreign country, in consequence of acts which had aroused resentment, in such cases the United States have never sought for words of little weight or employed meetings in order to make reparation, but have condemned such acts in vigorous and energetic terms, and have never refused to give other adequate satisfaction.

"The honorable secretary of State, Blaine, states, moreover, that it is not his intention to discuss the details of the incident of October, but only to set forth the conclusion at which this government has arrived. The honorable secretary of State says: 'We have given every kind of opportunity to the government of Chile to offer satisfactory explanations, or satisfactory reparation, and we have given due consideration to the fact that the government of Chile during a great part of the time which has elapsed since the 16th of October, has been in a provisional situation.' He then adds that he is directed by his excellency President to say that he has been compelled to take notice of the instructions sent by Mr. Montt, minister of foreign affairs, to the Chilean minister in Washington under date of December 14th, because, although they were not officially communicated to his government, it received the greatest possible publicity, and that, consequently, he demands the immediate withdrawal of and instructions as to the parts which he considers offensive, and adequate satisfaction, in order that the alphabetical correspondence between the two nations may not be interrupted.

"Without any intention of entering a discussion as to the facts referred to by the communication, which I have extracted, and confining himself to the duty of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, to inform the Legislature of Chile, requesting its several dispatches be public, so that Chile was not only responsible for the discourteous language, but for the publication of the dispatches, which, in the opinion of the civilized world. That you did not comply with Chile's request to publish it before he had an proof of your own disapproval of the tone.

As regard to Egan, you complained many times and very likely, to me especially, that he was acting for reasons, you thought, for no consultation with his government the instructions which were given then were sent by the order of Balmaceda, whom such day I showed you the dispatch of Mr. Egan speaking of the turmoil in general, and in these terms, you acknowledged that you were mistaken. I thought you would be satisfied, but you again spoke disparagingly of Egan, and said somewhat vehemently: 'Why do you not demand his recall, instead of constantly disparaging him.' Desiring thereby not to leave that recall, but to put a stop to the frequent mention of Egan's name. Referring to the question, you remark: 'You were pleased to acknowledge that the government of Chile feel the right to ask that a minister be recalled.' Undoubtedly she has that right, provided she assigns a reason. You are too well skilled in diplomatic usage to be reminded that, when a nation is forced to declare that a minister is persona non grata, she is expected to assign a reason therefor. We have had an example in such Great Britain to recall her ministers, and in each case gave a reason therefor, which satisfied other nations. It is hardly necessary to observe that conditions which were complied with by ourselves would likewise be expected of Chile.

I have thus frankly endeavored to correct some misapprehensions of yours, in order that the record of the State department of the United States shall be kept exact, and in all its proceedings shall be proved excellent.

Accept my renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

JAMES G. BLAINE.

EGAN TO BLAINE.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, Jan. 23, 1892.

To Blaine, Washington:

I have today received the following cable from you, dated the 22nd inst.:

"The undersigned has had the honor to receive your excellency's communication dated the 22nd inst., received in this department on the 23rd, and the only authenticated copies of instructions which the honorable secretary of state of Washington has sent to your excellency by cable under dates of the 21st inst. and the 22nd of October, 1891; in the independence of the 23rd inst. the honorable secretary of state informs your excellency that his excellency President Harrison, after carefully examining all that has been submitted to him by the governors of Chile, with respect to the events which occurred in Valparaiso on the evening of the 16th of October, and taking into consideration the testimony of the officers and crew of the vessel 'Baltimore,' and of others who witnessed the event, has arrived at the following conclusion:

"First—That, with respect to that assault, there has been no change whatever made in the character given to it by the first report of the event, that it was an attack upon the uniform of the navy of the United States, which had its origin and motive in a feeling of hostility towards that government, and not in any act of the individual sailors belonging to it.

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"Third—That he is consequently compelled to carry the question back to the State in which it was placed by the Hon. Mr. Winston, dated October 4th, and to ask for explicit satisfaction and some adequate reparation for the injury done to the Government of the United States.

"The Honorable