

THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON



had been completed and were ready for signature. As soon as the protocols with Spain and Denmark are signed, arbitration proceedings will begin.

The United States supreme court on March 8 rendered its first opinion in an interstate commerce case in which the Elkins act is dealt with. The case concerned a question of discrimination on the part of the Missouri Pacific railway between places. It is reported that the bill originally was brought in the interest of the city of Wichita, Kas., the allegation being that higher charges were made for carrying freight over the Missouri Pa-cific from St. Louis to Wichita than were made for carrying it over the rame line from St. Louis to Omaha, Neb., notwithstanding the distance is in favor of the Wichita haul and the conditions are the same. The circuit court overruled the demurrer of the railroad company and the company appealed the case to the supreme court.

According to a dispatch received at Washington on March 9 from Mr. Russell, United States charge at Caracas, it is reported that since Venezuela secured the ships taken from her during the recent blockade, the conditions prior to the European complications are repeating themselves and the ports of Carupano and Guanta have been blockaded by the Venezuelan government.

On March 9 the United States supreme court affirmed the opinion of the supreme court of South Carolina in the case of John Broomfield against the state of South Carolina. Broomfield is a negro, who resides in South Carolina, and was convicted of mur-

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On March 8 it was reported that the | der. He alleged that he had been deprotocol between Venezuela and Swe- | nied the equal protection of the law. den and Norway for the adjustment of | because, notwithstanding four-fifths the claims of the latter countries of the people of the community are against the South American republic colored, all negroes were excluded from the grand jury by which he was indicted. Justice Holmes, who delivered the opinion, says there is no proof of the allegation, and therefore sustained the decision of the supreme court, which was adverse to Broomfield.

> The house bill granting a pension of \$50 per month to Mrs. Stotsenburg, the widow of John M. Stotsenburg, late colonel of the First regiment of the Nebraska volunteers, who was killed in the Philippines, was signed by the president on March 9.

> Representative W. A. Reeder of Kansas, accompanied by Professor Newell, chief hydrographer of the United States geological survey, will make a tour of the states in the arid and semi-arid regions of the west shortly to examine the irrigation projects that are being developed by the national government

> After sharp competition between the transcontinental lines, the governrient has assigned the contract for carrying United States naval officers and men to and from San Francisco to the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railways west of the Missouri river.

> One concession made by the senate in connection with the Panama canal treaty-was granted on March 10 when it was agreed to attach the Spooner canal act bodily to the treaty. This is regarded as a concession to the position taken by Senator Morgan and other members of the senate commit-

It was announced on March 11 that the Cuban reciprocity treaty had been approved by the Cuban senate by a vote of 16 to 5.

It will be rememberede that Bolivia and Brazil recently had some trouble over the rights of these republics in what was known as the Acre territory. On March 11 it was made known through the Bolivian minister at Washington that a syndicate known as the Anglo-American syndicate having some rights in the disputed territory had accepted an indemnity of \$570,000 from the Brazilian government for those concessions. This action has met with severe protest from Bolivia, as that country claims that the syndicate is absolutely without authority to take this action and that it is a violation of the contract under which the syndicate obtained the concession, transfers of the concession to the foreign states or governments being prohibited.

On March 11 the senate committee on foreign relations authorized favorable reports on the extradition treaties recently negotiated between the United States and Mexico and Guatemala. The Mexican treaty is an amendment to the existing treaty between the two countries, adding the crime of bribery to the list of extraditable offenses. The Guatemalan treaty is new and covers all the crimes usually included in extradition treaties.

On March 12 the senate committee on foreign relations authorized a favorable report on the Cuban reciprocity

treaty with an amendment similar to that recommended in connection with other reciprocity treaties, providing that the treaty shall not take effect until approved by the house of representatives as well as by the senate.

On March 12 important developments in the ratification of the treaties pending in the senate took place when it was decided to vote on the Panama canal treaty on March 17. The Cuban reciprocity treaty was reported to the senate by the committee having it in charge, and it is anticipated that the special work which the senate was called to perform will soon be done.



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