

THE SPOILS OF WAR.

Chili Gobbles the Best of Peru
and Glories in the Act.

Vast Commercial Loss to the
United States.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The Post prints to-day an interview with ex-Secretary Blaine on the latest phase of the Chili-Peruvian contest. Mr. Blaine said that he was not able to give an exhaustive view of the question, but the general result was precisely what he had predicted when Trescott's instructions were revoked.

"I mean," said Blaine, "as I said last January; Peru is to be despoiled and destroyed and that the profits of the speculation are to be divided between Chili and the English bondholders. It will be carried in English ships, making a larger freightage than the cotton of the United States annually taken beyond the sea."

"Mr. Blaine, do you think the United States could, in any event, have prevented this result without war?"

"With the greatest of ease," replied Mr. Blaine. "There never was such arrant nonsense talked as the possibility of war with Chili. The difference in the power of the two countries renders the idea of war ridiculous. We are too big to make war on Chili, and Chili is too small to make war on us. The moral power of the United States, judiciously exercised, could have saved the autonomy of Peru."

"Could it also have preserved all her territory?" asked the reporter.

"I am not entirely sure of that. A cession of territory might be necessary in case Peru could not pay a proper indemnity, and I so instructed Mr. Trescott. But this was always contemplated, that Peru had the alternative right to pay an indemnity, and if the territory had to be sacrificed it should not be in excess of a fair indemnity. A million would amply reimburse Chili for her war expenses. She has taken fifteen hundred millions worth of property from Peru merely by her strong arm, and the United States has stood by in the person of our special envoy, instructed either to say nothing or to say it was all right."

"A great many believe," said the reporter, "that an active use of our influence would have done no good."

"In an event," said Mr. Blaine, "it would have done no harm, and we should have had the consciousness, at least, of trying to save a sister republic from destruction. It would have been honorable to have made an effort, even if it had failed. As the result now stands we have acquired

THE HATRED OF THE PERUVIANS to the latest generation and at least the contempt of the Chileans. We also secured the self-satisfied chuckle of a band of English speculators, into whose hands the power of the United States has so effectively played. Great Britain, with her prowess, could not have advanced the commercial interests of her own merchants in South America so powerfully and destroyed the interests of American merchants there so completely as has been done by the instructions with which Mr. Trescott was bound and gagged. The first installment to British interests is the freight money on a million tons of guano and half the profits of its sale Europe, which in itself is a larger sum than the war expenditures of Chili."

"But if the United States had intervened it would not Great Britain also have intervened?"

"Well," said Mr. Blaine, "it would be worth while to find out whether if the United States had intervened to save an American republic, Great Britain would have intervened to destroy it. In my judgment the foreign policy of Great Britain will next take that direction. It certainly will not so long as British statesmen see that the United States can do by omission more for British interests than Great Britain can do by commission."

The whole idea, however, of British intervention is a myth. The moral power of the United States in South America would have been irresistible. For American interests it was the opportunity of the century and it was blithely sacrificed. The commercial interests of this country in South America will not in fifty years recover what has been lost and what was in its power to acquire. Our interests are not only totally destroyed in Chili and Peru, but

"Does not the protocol change at all the previous demands of Chili?"

"I think," said Mr. Blaine, "it enlarges those demands somewhat beyond the indemnities asked before Mr. Trescott arrived. Naturally enough, when Chili found that we were sure not to interfere, she took all she wanted. She added, I think, the district of Tucumán to her previous demands, besides a large strip of territory north of Tarapacá. I understand now that Chili's demands include, first, the absolute annexation of Tarapacá, and a large strip of territory immediately north. These include all the nitrates and a great bulk of the guano; second, Chili holds and occupies the districts of Arica and Tacna, nominally for ten years, to be returned to Peru on payment of \$20,000,000, which they leave her no more power to pay than if it was \$200,000,000. Arica and Tacna may therefore be considered permanently annexed; third, the Lobos islands to be seized and held by Chili so long as there is any guano on them. They have therefore

TAKEN THE VERY RICHEST DISTRICTS from Peru, including all the nitrates and all her guano, just as they designated at the outset, only they were not so sure as they are now that the United States would permit it. When these conditions were submitted to Mr. Trescott, he was graciously told that if his good offices would be accepted to urge them upon them. But if Peru refused to accede to them, then his good offices must be considered at an end."

"That can hardly be considered courteous to the United States" inquired the reporter.

"Why should Chili be courteous to us?" replied Blaine. "Nations, like individuals, depend for their position upon their power and will to assert it. When Uriah Heep taught God he was humble, Master Copperfield took him at his word. When our minister of war was instructed to make no authoritative utterance, but merely to be seen and not heard and to act the part of weakness and humility, Chili naturally concluded that she could use the power of this government as she chose, and thus sought to make Mr. Trescott aid her designs upon Peru."

"But I do not understand," said the reporter, "how Chili can advertise a million tons of Peruvian guano for sale before the treaty was concluded or any arrangement for the plans made."

"She did it on the old principle," said Mr. Blaine, "of she has talk who has power, and he shall keep who can. It is absolute conquest. She feels sure of her possession. She need not wait for a treaty to be concluded. She simply appropriates the property with the strong hand. When the United States refused to ask for justice between the two republics, and a strong

English power was interested in the aggrandizement of Chili,

PERU'S FATE WAS SEALED.

It is noticeable, moreover, that these millions of tons of guano are offered for sale in one block, and any bidder is required to put up half a million of dollars, so that the decree of sale is merely a mode of getting this property in the hands of the agents of Chili and the English bondholders. It will be carried in English ships, making a larger freightage than the cotton of the United States annually taken beyond the sea."

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"Did Trescott agree to this?" asked the reporter.

"Trescott was forbidden," said Blaine, "to say one word about it, and was not permitted to interpose his protest."

"How forbidden!"

"How," replied the ex-secretary,

"WHY, IN EXPLICIT TERMS;

see here is what my successor in the state department said in his letter to Mr. Trescott revoking his previous instructions, (reading from recently printed volume of Chili-Peru dispatches) 'The president wishes in no manner to dictate or make any authorized statement to either Peru or Chili as to the merits of the controversy existing between those republics as to what indemnity should be asked or given, as to the change of boundaries, or as to the personal government of Peru. The president recognizes Peru and Chili to be independent republics, to whom he has no right or inclination to dictate.' Of course," continued Blaine, "when Trescott was thus made powerless, Chili and the English bondholders had all their own way, with none to interfere or make them afraid."

"Then it would seem as if Trescott's visit had turned out in the interest of English speculators?" suggested the reporter.

"Undeniably," he replied. "Because Trescott under Frelinghuysen's instructions has stood there as a witness and the United States would not in any event intervene. If indemnity was demanded and took the last dollar of Peru's property and the last acre of Peru territory, Mr. Trescott was officially instructed not to say one word in protest or opposition."

"How did Mr. Trescott come to sign this recent protocol?" asked the reporter.

"I do not understand that he has signed any protocol. The dispatches are a little confused, but you will observe that the result to Chili and Peru is exactly the same, whether our good offices in aid of the protocol would be used at all. It is merely a question, whether we would actively aid or simply agree not to hinder."

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English power was interested in the aggrandizement of Chili, nual aggregate product of 7,344,956, 805 copies—equal to about twenty-four and one-third copies per year to each inhabitant. Thus it appears that the press of the United States furnishes to our people more than twice the amount of reading matter per capita supplied by the press of Europe to its own population.

It must not be understood, however, that the press of the European nations is deficient either in numbers or in wide-spread influence. That of Germany ranks numerically next to that of the United States, having 5,529 publications, many of them with large circulations and conducted with great ability. The British press, however, is the most conspicuous in Europe for its munificent products and its magnificent sheets. While the British and Irish press combined numbers 4,082 journals, yet its aggregate yearly product is 2,626, 169,134 copies, which is not a great distance short of the work done by the American press with its 11,207 publications.

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GUARDIAN'S SALE.

The sale of lands of minor heirs duly advertised in THE OMAHA DAILY BEE by A. U. Wyman, guardian, to take place on February 19th, 1882, but which has been delayed by the illness of the testator, will be held on the 26th instant, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the south door of the Court House in Omaha, Douglas Co., Nebraska.

A. U. WYMAN, Guardian.

1-8-15

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S. MANSFIELD & CO.

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\$1,000 Reward will be paid to any chemist who will find, on analysis 100 bottles of S. S. S., one particle of Mercury Iodide Potassium or any Mineral substance.

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