

*PACIFIC BLOCKADE.*

The legality of instituting a blockade in time of peace as a measure of restraint short of war has been frequently questioned, but the precedents tend to show that it is legal, subject to the important qualification that it should only be applied against the vessels of the offending nation, and not against those of third nations (Lord Granville to M. Waddington on the Formosa blockade, 1884; and the Greek blockade, 1886). Hall (3rd edit., p. 372) says of the measure: "Pacific blockade, like every other practice, may be abused. But, subject to the limitation that it shall be felt only by the blockaded country, it is a convenient practice; it is a mild one in its effects even upon that country, and it may sometimes be of use as a measure of international police, when hostile action would be inappropriate and no action less stringent would be effective." It has proved specially advantageous against weak States. The moral sentiment of civilized nations may be relied upon to prevent its abuse by any one nation; while a still more effective check exists in the fact that the measure is usually put in force by the joint action of several nations rather than by one nation alone.

Greece holds a prominent position in relation to pacific blockade as a means for the settlement of international difficulties, and it appears probable that unless she complies with the demands of the Powers with reference to Crete she may afford another illustration of its application. The first occasion upon which blockade was applied otherwise than between nations at war with one another was in 1827, when the coasts of Greece, which were occupied by Turkish forces, were blockaded by the squadrons of Great Britain, France, and Russia, with the view of coercing Turkey, with whom the blockading nations professed to be at the time still at peace. Again, in 1850, when Greece refused to compensate a British subject for injury to property done by Greek subjects, the Greek ports were blockaded by England, with the somewhat insignificant eventual result that a claim of more than 21,000*l.* was settled by a payment of 150*l.* Thirdly, in order to compel her to abstain from making war upon Turkey, Greece was in 1886 blockaded by the fleets of Great Britain, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Russia, with the result that within little more than a fortnight from the notification and enforcement of the blockade the King of Greece signed a decree to disarm.—*Law Journal (London).*