

which the rabidly isolationist and anti-British *Chicago Tribune* has enjoyed as a morning paper, and it is likely to take a firmly pro-Administration and perhaps even a strongly interventionist line. It is to be hoped that this new paper, added to the fact that we have for several months possessed a very active branch office in Chicago of the British Information Services in North America—the opening of which even received not unfriendly notice in the *Tribune* itself—will mean that Britain and her war effort will gradually secure a better and more understanding “press” in the Middle West.

LATIN AMERICA.

Slowly but surely the idea of continental defence is making headway in Latin America. The Peruvian Vice-President, when visiting Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires early last month, advocated continental solidarity and a further conference for that purpose, the map shown him by President Roosevelt having proved to him the aggressive nature of Axis intentions and his visit to the United States having convinced him of Allied victory. President Vargas of Brazil seems to hold much the same opinion, and it may be assumed that the retention with the colours of Brazilian reservist officers who should have been released at the end of the year is not unconnected with the considerable defensive measures which are being executed in the northern provinces of Brazil in understanding with the United States. Dr. Aranha, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, too, is credited with thinking that the time has come for American countries to join in actual measures of defence rather than in conferences. Nevertheless, there have been indications that American heavy-handedness, combined with opposition in Brazilian military circles, is making his position difficult. The Uruguayan President is believed to favour opening all American ports to Allied warships forthwith. Even the President of El Salvador, who is so totalitarian in his methods and sympathies, has given leave for armed United States merchantmen to use Salvadorean ports.

But the Argentine Government is non-co-operative, partly because it is not yet certain of the outcome of the war and partly because it fears that an Allied victory will weaken the privileged position of the Conservatives and open the way to office to the Radicals, who are ostentatiously pro-Ally. The Acting President, Dr. Castillo, and the Foreign Minister, Señor Ruiz Guinazu, are known to have German leanings, although a friendly wing in the Cabinet is led by the Minister of the Interior. In a speech which he made last month Dr. Castillo appealed for less partisan spirit and less moral belligerency lest public tranquillity should be troubled. The propaganda activities of the foreign diplomatic missions, whether Allied or Axis, are closely restricted by the authorities. On the 29th November the Acting President forbade 5,000 simultaneous meetings of the democratic association “Accion Argentina” which were to have taken place all over the country to express solidarity with Great Britain and deplore the execution of hostages, but would scarcely have let slip so good a chance of condemning the Government’s home and foreign policy. The Governor of Entre Rios went so far as to refuse to ban the meeting in his province. The applause with which a message from Mr. Churchill was received at a big social gathering at Buenos Aires on the 28th November was a sign of the vigour of democratic sentiment among the general public.

An unprecedentedly large pro-Ally meeting at Havana on the 30th November, which was attended by the Vice-President and other members of the Cabinet and addressed by the American Ambassador and British Minister, welcomed with great enthusiasm a message of thanks from Mr. Churchill for birthday wishes addressed to him.

In Panamá, where anti-democratic or anti-continental propaganda may no longer be sent by post, telegraph or telephone, a dozen people were summarily imprisoned for promoting a subversive movement to put in power one Anibal Rios, who was Panamanian Minister at Lima and concurrently third Vice-President under ex-President Arias. The probable explanation of this movement, which was promptly quashed, was the discontent of its promoters with their poor prospects of graft under the new régime.