

The civil war in Colombia is at an end, the treaty of peace between the two parties providing for the election of a congress in which both shall have representation.

Hayti has a new president, whose election is more or less regular, and who is supported by the army. It may be hoped that the turmoil in the black republic is over.

There is another little revolution in the district of Acre, in Bolivia. The Acre country is on the upper waters of the Amazon and is rich in rubber production. The ultimate purpose of the rebels, it is thought, is to secure annexation to Brazil.

That there should be almost always an insurrection in progress somewhere in the great Chinese Empire is not surprising. Just at present there is said to be one of serious importance, which may result in the formation of an independent government in Kan-su and Shen-si, which, lying in the northwest of China proper, are geographically in the very centre of the empire.

Venezuela now has a foreign war. Her ports are blockaded by British, German and Italian warships, and President Castro has been brought to terms, and forced to give some heed to the demands that are made upon him. It is expected that these demands will now be referred to the Hague tribunal. Castro has agreed with France to treat her claims as those of Great Britain, Germany and Italy; but has refused a similar promise to Belgium, Spain and Holland.

It is difficult to deal with Venezuela, because of the state of anarchy which usually prevails within her territory. She has seen more than a hundred revolutions since the days of Bolivar, the longest period of quiet being under the dictatorship of Blanco, 1870-1889. The present revolution began in 1899. Castro was then its leader; but he seized the government three years ago, and took the field against his former companions in arms. In virtue of an election held in 1901, he now claims to be the constitutional ruler. His success in scattering the insurgents a few weeks ago was but temporary. They are again gathering in force. By his ill-treatment of foreigners and his insolent replies to diplomatic representations, he has brought about the present complications. He has interfered with trade by blockading his own coasts; seized the property of British and other foreign citizens; countenanced filibustering against British territory; suspended payment of interest on the national debt; and, latterly, finding that his government could no longer borrow money, has granted concessions to British and German firms for the building of railroads and then seized the railways when built.

"May I be permitted by means of first wireless message to congratulate Your Majesty on the success of Marconi's great invention, connecting England and Canada." This is the text of the message from Lord Minto to the King, which was sent from Cape Breton to Cornwall on December 20th. Since that date, a wireless message has been sent from Cape Cod to England, a distance of six hundred miles further.

Perhaps the most brilliant and imposing pageant that the world has ever seen is that attending the opening of the great durbar in India, at which, on the first day of January, King Edward VII. was proclaimed Emperor of India. The durbar, which means audience, is being held at Delhi, the ancient capital of the Mogul emperors, and will continue for some weeks. The King is represented personally by his brother, the Duke of Connaught, and officially by Lord Curzon, the Governor-General of India. They made their state entry into the city on December 29th, borne by the largest elephants in India; and oriental magnificence has never surpassed the display of the official procession. This, and the grandeur of the ceremonies of the proclamation, will have great effect upon the minds of Asiatic people; and will, perhaps, do more than we can understand to promote the peace and prosperity of India.

The mammoth which was found nearly two years ago, frozen in the ice of Northern Siberia, where it has rested for thousands of years, has with great difficulty been excavated and brought to St. Petersburg. The legs and feet resemble those of an elephant, except that the latter has three toes and the mammoth has five. The hair is of a brownish yellow color, and so long and thick that the animal could hardly have felt cold in the lowest temperature. Blood was found in the body, and in its mouth were the remains of food. It had probably slipped when grazing, and fallen into a crevasse, where it became frozen fast.

Just one hundred years ago, John Dalton, of Manchester, England, founded the atomic theory of chemistry. Now English scientists are developing the idea of the electron, or electric atom; which is supposed to give electric currents by rapid motion, magnetic fields by rotary motion, and the phenomena called radiation by the waves of its vibrations. These electric atoms are assumed to be solid particles, much smaller than atoms of matter, and it is even supposed that matter itself may prove to be an electrical phenomenon, with atoms made up of aggregations of electrons.

Sir Humphrey Davy put a wire gauze envelope around the miner's lamp, and thus removed the greatest danger of fire damp explosions. A Russian scientist, Prof. Artemieff, of Kief, has devised a suit of clothes made of wire gauze, which will protect the wearer from electric shocks of every kind.

The map of the islands north of Canada will have to be redrawn, later information of the discoveries of Capt. Sverdrup, the Norwegian explorer, showing that Ellesmere Land extends much farther west than was supposed, and that another land mass lies beyond it. Land thus extends far north of the Parry archipelago; and the new land masses are larger than any in that group of islands.

The offer of some of the Boer leaders to fight for the British in Somaliland has been accepted.

The British South Africa Company will undertake immediately the construction of the Cape-to-Cairo rail-