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## LATE ADVICES FROM CORINTO

The Guns of the Royal Arthur, Wild Swan and Satellite Command the Town.

Commander Trench of the Flagship Constituted Military Governor of Corinto.

Managua, April 27.—Shortly after two o'clock, in the morning, 22 boats filled with marines and seamen were lowered from the British warships and immediately after the vessels came round boats on and advanced in a line towards the government pier. Each launch carried a machine gun. There was a great crowd at the pier; no hostile demonstration was made. The landing party marched without question to the customs house and hoisted the British flag there. A part of the marines occupy the principal quarter of the city. Rear-Admiral Stephenson declared martial law. A large number of Nicaraguan troops arrived at Corinto on the evening of the 26th with artillery, and encamped at the lower end of the town. Order is maintained by the marines who patrol the streets. The populace is quiet. The landing party was commanded by Captain Trench, of the Royal Arthur, who immediately issued a proclamation assuring the citizens that their rights would be respected, and that they might pursue their vocations without fear of molestation. The proclamation contained a warning that any act of hostility would be opposed with the full force of the fleet.

Colon, Colombo, April 27.—Advices just received state that the populace at Managua held a mass meeting yesterday, at which resolutions were adopted urging the government to refuse to accept England's ultimatum. A mob headed by a military band paraded the streets and attempted to attack the British consulate, but were prevented by the Nicaraguan police, who finally succeeded in dispersing the rioters. The consulate was guarded last night by a Nicaraguan military force, and every precaution was taken to prevent any violent demonstration. The enthusiasm of the people is aroused. Their hatred of England cannot be eradicated. The government is using all means in its power to restrain the populace from committing violence. Other dispatches stated unequivocally that the British forces were in possession of Corinto. No additional details were given beyond the statement that the British flag was flying over the town, and that the Nicaraguan flag had been hauled down.

Washington City, April 27.—The events of the day in diplomatic circles here were the landing of the British troops in Corinto, the abandonment of the town by the native officials and the population, and the shrewd move of the Nicaraguans in declaring Corinto a closed port. The first news of the event came in the afternoon. Dr. Guzman had been waiting for several hours in the state department to see Secretary Gresham. He was in a fever of anxiety, and in the absence of news from his own government came to learn what the department had received as to the British movements at Corinto. He was unable to see the secretary this morning, as Mr. Gresham had been suffering from a severe toothache and was obliged to spend some time in a dentist's chair.

At noon the minister returned to his home for luncheon and found there two telegrams from his government, forwarded

from San Juan del Sur, the Nicaraguan cable port, about 125 miles south of Corinto. The first cablegram stated that the British troops had landed at Corinto, and that the British flag was flying over the town which had been deserted by the Nicaraguan officials and the native inhabitants. The second cablegram showed that the authorities had gone to San Juan del Sur, cutting the wire connecting the cable port with Corinto, so that the British forces at the latter place could not communicate with their home government except by sending a boat to the cable station. The main body of the Nicaraguans who had abandoned Corinto had crossed a lagoon which separated the town from the mainland, and had strongly entrenched themselves. This information was promptly communicated to the state department. Dr. Guzman, who has been in ill-health and has suffered so from the nervous strain of the last few weeks as to be obliged to take to his bed this afternoon, would not do so until he had gone through the cable to see Secretary Gresham and officially communicate the substance of his cablegrams to him.

The news, it was apparent, was not expected by the state department, which has never believed that the Nicaraguans would go to the length of permitting the occupation of Corinto in preference to paying the indemnity. That the only difficulty in the way of a speedy settlement of the trouble was that arising from the trouble experienced by the Nicaraguan government in raising the money, and that the British admiral would be indulgent on this point when satisfied of the disposition of the Nicaraguans to comply with the terms of the ultimatum, had never been doubted by the department.

For this reason, the first reports of the occupation of Corinto received at the department from unofficial sources were discredited, and doubts expressed as to their accuracy. The secretary had been unable to obtain any information from his own agents as to the action of the British, probably for the reason that Mr. Baker, our minister at Nicaragua, is at present in the country, and there is no charge at Managua. There is a consular agent at Corinto, Henry Palazzo, but he is not an American, and could scarcely be relied upon in a matter of this kind to keep the department informed, in the absence of express orders.

The situation at Corinto is now regarded as ominous of serious trouble, for the dispatches indicate that the Nicaraguans are disposed to resist any further advance by the British. The information reaching here is to the effect that the Nicaraguans may further isolate the British at Corinto by burning the bridges across the lagoon separating the town from the mainland. The British position is said to be very bad from a strategic standpoint. The town is practically on an island, being separated from the mainland by a stretch of marshy ground. This is traversed by bridges, and without them Corinto is cut off from the shore. The Nicaraguans have retired to the shore end of the bridges, and those well informed on the situation believe that if the British make any movement to cross the lagoon the bridges will be burned and the little band of Nicaraguan troops will make a stand against further encroachments.

The British are evidently apprehensive of trouble on this score, as indicated by the cablegrams from Colon showing that the three vessels, the Royal Arthur, the Wild Swan and the Satellite, have been so placed as to command the town with their guns. It is probable that this disposition has been made so as to insure the occupying forces, numbering about 400 armed men, from an attack from the Nicaraguans, rather than with any de-

liberate purpose of bombarding the town, for there is no evidence that the British desire to advance into the interior at present, and it was certainly not a part of the original programme of operations, as made known to our government, to bombard the place.

The news of the situation at Corinto created a commotion here, and particularly in the state department. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, came to the department, after making in private consultation with Secretary Gresham for a short time, the two repaired to the war department to consult with Secretary Lamont. The latter was absent at the time, but coming in later reported immediately to the state department and talked over matters with the president. Later on, the news came to the department by the Associated Press from Colon that the Nicaraguan government had made a sharp move by declaring Corinto a closed port. This was a decidedly disturbing element in the calculation, for Assistant Secretary Uhl was at once dispatched to the British embassy to confer with Sir Julian Pauncefote, a most unusual proceeding in diplomatic etiquette.

It was said at the embassy that Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, had not received confirmation from the foreign office of the British occupation of Corinto up to the close of the embassy at 3 o'clock. The embassy did not expect information from London, as it is said the foreign office has no occasion to communicate with the British representative at Washington City.

There can be no doubt that the action of the Nicaraguan government in the closing of Corinto as a closed port has seriously complicated the most troublesome question, and, even if there is no resort to hostilities at present, it opens a prospect of alarming events in the future, which may, and in fact are, regarded as likely to involve the United States directly in the affair, in spite of the earnest disposition of the administration to avoid the entanglement. The action means that no goods can now be entered at Corinto, a port which has hitherto received over half of the imports into the country, without violating the national law of Nicaragua. The British may collect duty if any goods enter the place, but the latter would be liable to seizure the moment they crossed the British lines into the interior. Corinto does not form a market, for the coast, being unhealthy, is thinly populated, and the great consuming class of the population lives in the interior.

The first effect of the decree closing the port, therefore, will probably be to divert all, if not the entire, import trade of the place to San Juan del Sur, or perhaps Realajas, seaport nearby, for it is improbable that many merchants will take the chances of getting their goods into Nicaragua through the British lines under the circumstances. In this case, the length of the stay of the British at Corinto is problematic, conditional, as it is, upon collecting enough revenue from customs to make good the indemnity demanded.

Another consideration arises at this point, for our government has been assured that the occupation will not be permanent, and, indeed, the first paragraph of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty expressly pledges Great Britain against any occupation of Nicaraguan territory. So the problem will arise how to collect the indemnity within a reasonable time. This may be settled summarily by simply evacuating the occupation and blockading beyond Corinto, so as to include all the Pacific ports of Nicaragua. From the disposition shown by the Nicaraguans at present, this can be done only by force, and is likely to add very largely to the expense incurred in the collection of the indemnity, which item will surely be added by the British to the original sum.

This course, moreover, will seriously embarrass the commerce of the United States, and on this point Great Britain has given Secretary Gresham certain assurances of the manner in which the British may be sure of attaining their ends by a prompt declaration of war and an invasion of Nicaragua, involving the capture of the capital, Managua, and the imposition upon the Nicaraguans of the British terms as the price of peace. It may be that the British government will be driven to the latter course in the interest of trade, our own as well as that of her own merchants, which she is bound to safeguard. If goods entered at Corinto after payment of duty to the British occupants should be seized in the interior, the owners, British or American, would have every claim for reparation, the only question is as to whose duty it would be to secure this; whether the United States would feel bound to intervene in the case of an American merchant in such a case, and therein lies one of the factors which may involve our country directly in the dispute. It has been asserted as a hard and fast rule of international law that duties cannot be twice collected, and our own government has taken an advanced position on this question. At one time, when the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Mexico were interrupted, and a revolutionary movement was in progress in the latter country, a British ship entering one of the revolutionary ports of Mexico paid duty upon her goods to the insurgents. Afterwards the Mexican government again asserted the duties upon the same goods, holding that the insurgents had no authority to make the first collection and refusing to recognize it. The British minister, Sir Edward Thornton, appealed to our country, Great Britain having no representative in Mexico, to secure the release of the goods from this imposition. We acted promptly and obliged the Mexicans to release the goods and to acknowledge the principle that duties cannot be twice levied. This case differs in many important features from the present one, the closure of Corinto, and it is difficult to ascertain the application of international law in this case, although the general broad principle would seem to be similar.

It is understood here that Commander Trench, of the Royal Arthur, has been constituted military governor of Corinto. The fact that the cable advices do not

show any sign of trouble is accepted as showing that the landing of the British forces was peaceable and unopposed. Reports yesterday indicated that 8,000 Nicaraguan troops had been concentrated at Corinto, and that forces from Honduras were expected, but the fact that all Nicaraguan authorities withdrew, leaving the British complete masters of the situation, indicates that the local soldiery were not called upon. The understanding among the officials for several days has been that armed resistance would be useless.

The report that Central American states would unite to help Nicaragua and a military defence has never been seriously entertained by officials here, as they said the countries united could not present an armed force worthy of mention alongside the British forces.

Colon, April 27.—Information has been received here from Corinto that the British warships have been so stationed as to render to the town should the Nicaraguan force, which retreated across the lagoon to the mainland on occupation of the place by the British, attempt to interfere with the movements of the landing party. Corinto is almost deserted. As it is, bombardment is unnecessarily expected.

Colon, April 27.—The Nicaraguan government, in view of the occupation of Corinto by the British forces under Admiral Stephenson, for the purpose of collecting customs revenue at that port to satisfy the demands of Great Britain for an indemnity for the expulsion of Consul Hatch and other British subjects from Bluefields, has decreed the closing of the port. On account of this action of the government the Panama Railway Company has issued notice to the agents of the various steamship lines whose vessels run to the isthmus, notifying them of the closure of Corinto, in order that they may take the necessary action to protect freight and passengers en route to Corinto.

London, April 27.—Inquiries at the foreign office to-day elicited the statement that no cable dispatches had been received from Admiral Stephenson with regard to the landing of his forces at Corinto. It is believed, however, that the forces were landed at daylight this morning. He has full power to act without reference to the foreign office. It is reported that the British Admiral landed a force at Corinto this morning. It is also stated that the United States, at the instance of Nicaragua, has suggested that the indemnity be paid in London instead of Corinto and asked for an extension of time. This arrangement, it is thought, will settle the difference. England, however, contends that Nicaragua's attitude does not entitle her to any concession.

Washington, April 27.—The Nicaraguan minister was an early and anxious visitor at the state department this morning, but failed then to see Gresham, who had gone to Woodley to consult with the president and who was met there by other cabinet officers. It is anticipated that in the course of the day some authentic statement of the administration's position may be given out. Shortly after noon Gresham returned to the city from Woodley and had an interview with the Nicaraguan minister at the state department.

Washington, April 27.—Nicaragua has refused to accept the British ultimatum. This information was communicated to British Admiral Stephenson at Corinto late last night. The three days given Nicaragua to make a reply having expired at midnight on Friday the British forces took possession of the town. The garrison at Corinto, which consists of a small force of 200 men, were withdrawn to the interior, leaving the British in peaceable possession of the town. No opposition was made to their landing, but it is said that any attempt of the British forces to penetrate the interior or leave the environments of Corinto will be resisted. Great excitement is reported to exist at Nicaragua. It is now said positively that Nicaragua will not pay the indemnity demanded by the British. Should this determination be adhered to the occupation of Corinto by the British may be indefinite. The ultimatum provided not only the payment of the indemnity, but provides further that a joint commission shall be established to divide the damage which resulted to British subjects from their arrest and expulsion from Nicaragua. In the British ultimatum it is stated that the commission to be named by the British shall not contain a representative of any American republic. England, it is asserted, says the stipulation applies only to the small republics. Nicaragua, it is claimed, will not submit the matter to a commission unless a representative of the United States is placed thereon.

London, April 29.—The government has received Admiral Stephenson's report of the landing at Corinto, but refuses to make the report public.

The representatives of Guatemala, who are acting also for Honduras, have been informed by the authorities of the latter country that England is preparing to take aggressive measures for collecting the interest due on Honduran bonds which defaulted nearly twenty years ago.

The interest on a principal in arrears, it is said, will amount to between twenty and thirty thousand pounds per annum, and the proposition is to collect the revenues of Honduran ports until some portion of the overdue interest is paid.

Washington, April 29.—No advices have reached Washington up to noon to-day indicating any change in the Nicaraguan situation. Gresham was the guest of the President at Woodley last night. He telephoned instructions that any matter of importance should be sent to him there, none was received. The President remains at Woodley to-day. The statements that England had acceded to Nicaragua's request conveyed through Ambassador Bayard, to grant fourteen days extension of time in which to pay the indemnity are untrue. Warner Miller's presence here accentuates the impression prevailing that Nicaraguan canal concessions may play quite an important part in the adjustment of the Nicaraguan trouble. The ex-senator insists that his visit is for the purpose of



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meeting his wife. He adds he believes the present embroglio will facilitate rather than retard the canal.

London dispatches saying that England now contemplates moving against Honduras to collect overdue interest on bonds adds to the gravity of the situation. The principal ports in Honduras are liable to blockade or occupation.

The warship Monterey sailed yesterday from Acapulco for Panama. No intimation has been given that she will stop at Corinto.

The Nicaraguan minister stated to-day that he had nothing to conceal regarding the information furnished by his government. He said he had notified the Nicaraguan minister of foreign affairs several times that the United States would remain neutral. Although satisfied that the United States would maintain a neutral position the Nicaraguan minister did not abate a single effort to secure from this government the use of its good offices on behalf of Nicaragua. For the past ten days he has literally haunted the state department.

Managua, April 20.—The situation at Corinto to-day is unchanged, except the feeling of irritation over England's action is growing. The English consulate is closely guarded to prevent violence. The government is being urged by foreign representatives to pay the indemnity and end the trouble. Thus far, however, there is no sign of yielding.

London, April 29.—The Pall Mall Gazette says England only wants to teach Nicaragua politeness. It is ridiculous for the President of Nicaragua to war with the country's defenseless position.

The St. James Gazette says the Monroe doctrine is evidently construed by the South American republics to mean protection to them in robbing Europe. It says Venezuela will be the next.

The St. James Gazette advocates an offensive and defensive alliance with America, and says the interest of both England and America in South America is identical.

Foreign Secretary Grey announced to the House that information had been received from Admiral Stephenson announcing the occupation of Corinto on April 27 without opposition and that the Nicaraguans had evacuated the town.

## WHEN OTHERS FAIL CONSULT



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foreign policy and to show the St. Petersburg his approval of managing international politics. He probably aims also to have a faithful ally like the Czar how much is likely at any time to look after her own interests, to assist others who are anxious. This explanation of the conduct is supported by the most intimately acquainted with peculiarities.

On his tour through China and Japan he has regarded himself as a judge of Oriental politics. His progress has impressed him as frightened him a little. He took on the trans-Siberian railroad forward with all possible speed, a view of using the transportation of troops in Asia. His opinion is that war ought to be postponed, until the railway shall be completed, and thus enable Russia to play a part in the Yellow Sea. The correspondent says that Prince Loo, Russian minister of foreign affairs, assured several diplomats convinced that the united action of Germany and Russia in the China-Japan treaty will not result in serious complications. The minister asserts that M. Hanotaux, German minister of foreign affairs, tried to Germany from the alliance, yielded to Russia's insistence on united action of the three governments confined to certain limits.

g in St. Petersburg according to the correspondent is that the danger of conflict is very remote. From Yokohama states that made by Russia, France and that Japan refrain from annexing the peninsula is expected to be a restraint of the Japanese very. The government will find it difficult, impossible, to comply with risk of internal trouble. The nation is viewed with much apprehension, but at the same time it is not the government will be able to do its utmost to meet the views.

from Peking says that the opinion of Southern Manchuria, as or in the treaty of peace, that opposed in the Chinese capital. The treaty made to the Emperor, Li Hung-chang, the province of Manchuria is the portion of the empire. There is a question regarding the cessation of the island of Formosa, a new province. The articles of the treaty are as bearable. Several governors of the generals opposed submission of the public proclamation that made.

Colon, April 27.—Yang Yu, the minister, called upon Secretary Gresham at half-past three o'clock to-day an hour later, within a few minutes after Yang Yu departed, the minister, who came by appointment, was closeted with the Secretary. The subject of the interview was related to the clause in the peace relating to the occupation of the Regent's Sword promon the Korean bay coast from Port to the Yalu river, to which Russia is endeavoring to resist the demand, which led to Li Hung-chang. The states have declined to be drawn into controversy to such an extent as to risk, but will continue to good in the past, to secure peace between Japan and Japan.

Colon, April 27.—The English press column upon column of space in upon the speech of Mr. Balfour annual assembly of the House of Commons yesterday. The utterance of the time leader are regarded in the great victory, inasmuch as the between the Tories and Unionists as foreshadowed in last week's would undoubtedly have seen Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour promised to go to the country programme embodying the social which Mr. Chamberlain advocates the personal followers of Mr. Balfour, together with the moderate Liberals and Lord Salisbury, the meaning is that Chamberlain will be the next of the exchequer, and that the Devonshire will also be in the Many expect to see Mr. Chamberlain as Irish leader, and that the sentiments which the active leader expressed were those of the party.

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