

12 SPAIN AND UNITED STATES

The New Ambassador and His Staff.

Silvela's Conciliatory Attitude and His Future Foreign Policy—National Antipathy to England—Questions Pressing for Settlement.

Madrid, May 10.—Outside the official world, the departure of the Duke of Arcos from Madrid for Washington would have passed unnoticed by most people if the press had not directed attention to the fact that a goodly gathering of well-known personages had gone to the Northern Station to wish him goodspeed. The Premier, who has charge of the Foreign Affairs Department, was on the platform of the station with other members of the cabinet and the under-Secretary of State, Senor Dupuy de Lome, who, by the by, will very soon have to elect between his post at the Foreign Office and the seat in the House of Deputies that he won in the general election on April 16. This he will have to do because the new Conservative cabinet intends to ask the Cortes to give retroactive effect to the bill they have prepared for enacting that high state officials will have to relinquish their positions if they want to be eligible for seats in Senate and Congress.

There is just now a very healthy inclination for curtailing both the privileges of politicians, and the admission of naval and military officers in active service or below the rank of generals into the Senate and lower house. It is also proposed to enact that members of either house shall cease to belong to the boards of great railway companies, banks, and enterprises, in favor of which their political influence is too often misused, and that ministers of grace and justice shall be debarred from the privilege of returning to the bar for two years at least after leaving office.

His Wife an American.

Duke Arcos assured the Spanish statesmen and nobles and the foreign diplomatists who went to see him off that he was gladly going upon his mission, and that he felt sure that everything would be loyally done at Washington to make his task easy. The new representative of his Catholic Majesty in the United States knows the country whether he has been sent and is married to an American lady. He understands and speaks English. He has as First Secretary Don Juan Riano y Gayaganos, who was attached to the Spanish Peace Commission at Paris. Senor Riano speaks and writes English perfectly, and is the grandson of the late Don Pascual Gayaganos, who was for many years a valuable assistant of the British Museum, and who acquired fame in England and Spain as the most competent man in all data about the Moorish rule in the peninsula. Senor Gayaganos was a member or associate of every learned society in Spain, and of many abroad; a Senator-elect several times of the Academy of History, and his library was one of the best in this country. The Second Secretary of the Spanish legation is Senor Pastor, who also speaks and writes English well. Military and naval attaches have been selected who are acquainted with the English language, and who did not take part in active service either in the Philippines or the West Indies. The new Minister and his staff are expected to enter upon their duties late in May or early in June. They left Madrid significantly enough forty-eight hours before the Duke of Tetuan, who is generally considered as likely to accept the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs on his return from the Disarmament Conference at The Hague, whither he has gone as the chief representative of Spain, with Count Bugner, Spanish Minister at the Dutch court, and Senor Villaurruti, the Spanish Minister at the court of Brussels, and late member of the Peace Commission in Paris.

Duke of Tetuan to Accept a Portfolio.

The Duke of Tetuan not only accepted this mission at the hands of Senor Silvela, but he intimated that the government might count upon the support of his group of thirty dissentient Conservative Senate and twenty Deputies too. In fact, Duke Tetuan only abstained from accepting a seat in the present cabinet because he felt reluctant to assent to the very ultramontane and reactionary programme of Gen. Polavieja, Marquis de Fidal, and Senor Duran y Bas, Ministers of War, Public Works, and Justice, that elicited such a severe and eloquent rebuke from Don Emilio Castelar. If Silvela induces these ministers to tone down their pretensions, Duke de Tetuan will once more assume the direction of the foreign policy of Spain and consequently of the relations with the United States. Though the old Duke shares much of the rancor and unpleasant feelings of other Spaniards toward the United States on account of the loss of their colonies, I understand that he would easily bow to the will of the Prime Minister, who is desirous to put the relations between the two governments upon a cordial and satisfactory footing.

Farsighted and Clever Statesman.

Don Francisco Silvela is undoubtedly a farsighted and clever statesman, and just the supple, wary, cautious leader that Spain requires for the entirely new foreign and domestic policies that public opinion has perceived that the foreign affairs be perceived that the outcome of the colonial insurrections of the war with the United States, of the wreck of the colonial empire of the past was sure to be a reaction against the policy of neutrality and isolation that had prevailed during the last

forty years under every form of government, because, rightly or wrongly, the people, and even the educated classes, are now convinced that if Spain had had continental alliances she might have suffered less in her recent trials. He has to steer carefully between the wayward impulses of the popular agitators and the rival opposition advocates of alliances with France and Russia, on the ground that those countries are most likely to furnish Spain some day with an opportunity to show the two great Anglo-Saxon communities that she has deep-rooted grudges against the United States for expelling Spain from the New World and from her east possessions, and a grievance almost as bitter against England for having sympathized with American aggressions upon Spanish dominions.

Russia and France to Side With Spain.

Somewhat, public opinion is less inclined to court alliances with the central European powers, despite the connection of the royal families of Bourbon and Hapsburg, and despite the ties of race, religion, and common interests in the Mediterranean that might have led Spain to seek Italian alliances. The idea is that Russia and France are far more in a position to side with Spain in Mediterranean and African questions against England than the Triple Alliance. It is England that most Spaniards would wish to checkmate in the Mediterranean, in Egypt, in Morocco, on both shores of the Straits of Gibraltar. Not an occasion is allowed to pass that affords a pretext for denouncing England as a permanent danger for Spanish interests in Morocco, and for that preponderance in the future partition of that empire that Spaniards regard as their birthright. Gibraltar is more than ever held up as an eyecore to the Castilian people, and all sorts of dark designs are attributed to England against the Spanish shore of the Straits around the Rock, which most Spaniards would fain see bristling with fortifications to reduce the British station to impotence, at least on the land side.

Jingo Tendencies Must Be Controlled.

Senor Silvela perfectly understands that these Jingo tendencies must be controlled without allowing the leaders of the opposition parties, and the irresponsible and always troublesome and heedless Madrid press, to drag him into undesirable complications with the Anglo-Saxon races and governments, or into any alliance in which Spain, like Italy, would have to undertake armaments that would cripple her budgets and make impossible the restoration of her finances which is the most difficult part of the task of the present cabinet. He has in this direction, unfortunately, to keep within bounds the impatience and ambition of his War Minister, General Polavieja (whom he only accepted as an ally because that officer was a favorite of the Queen Regent, and was considered by Don Christina as an excellent auxiliary to take away from the pretender, Don Carlos, and to bring over to the reigning royal family), the intolerant ultramontanes, the Jesuits, the religious orders, and rural clergy, the regionalists, or provincial elements that coquetted with Carlism for years past. General Polavieja wants to keep the generals, the twenty thousand officers of the home and colonial armies contented by a thorough reorganization of the army; military service henceforth obligatory for all classes, defenses in the peninsula, and defenses of the Balearic and Canary Isles, and Moorish coast stations, with a view to make Spain a welcome ally for continental powers, as soon as she is able to put about 300,000 men in the field. The Finance Minister, Villaverde, and the Premier have had to show the War Minister that all this will for a long time be impracticable, but they dare not disappoint him too much, as in such matters they know he is in touch with the feelings of the Regent and the army, though not of the rate-payers.

No Ill Feeling for the Anglo-Saxons.

Senor Silvela makes no secret that he does not at all share the popular ill feeling against the Anglo-Saxon nations. He thinks that bygone must be left alone, and that it is expedient and wise to make the best of the renewal of relations with the United States as well as of the improved tone lately in the relations between the English and Spanish governments. He would like to get from England some concessions for Spanish wines, sadly handicapped in the competition with Italian and French in British markets by the recent increase of wine duties in England; and from England, too, he would like to ask for a continuation of the hands-off policy in Morocco, and for less overbearing protests against the raising of some paltry defenses on the Spanish territory near Gibraltar that public opinion and military influences oblige Madrid governments now and then to undertake. With the United States Senor Silvela would be delighted to renew negotiations for a treaty of reciprocity which might develop the direct trade between the peninsula and the States, and particularly the exports of Spanish wines, oranges, raisins, olives, minerals, and other natural products. The Premier is anxious to see the relations between Spain and the United States put quickly on a friendly footing, because there are many matters to settle yet in connection with Spanish interests in Cuba and Porto Rico and Spanish residents in both islands, besides the release of the Spanish prisoners still in the hands of Aguinaldo in the Philippines.

Strong Force of Consuls.

Last, but not least, the Spanish government wants to negotiate directly with the United States some modus vivendi to allow the peninsula trade to keep some hold of the markets of Cuba and Porto Rico, and to negotiate likewise for the complete execution of the stipulations of the peace treaty in relation to the trade of Spain in the Philippines and the rights and properties of Spaniards in those archipelagoes. On all these questions Duke de Arcos received full and precise instructions before he left Madrid, and he was promised that the State Department would carefully select a strong staff of consuls to back his efforts in defense of Spanish rights in Havana, Porto Rico, Manila, and other places, some of whom have already started for their destinations.

HIS LAST HOLD-UP.

The Lamented Col. Tree of Nevada and the Letter That Spoiled His Nerve.

"In the good old days out West," said the Judge, as the talk turned to train robberies, "there were road agents who were hunted down without mercy, and there were others who were put up on pedestals as chevaliers and admired by their victims. Such a man was Colonel Tree of Nevada. That wasn't his right name, of course. He was christened Thomas Post, and was born in Iowa, but that fact wasn't known until after his death.

"The Colonel made a bit at stage robbing right from the start, and I was in the first coach he stopped. He was then a man about 30 years old, a good figure and a handsome face, and a more rollicking chap would have been hard to find. He was the beau ideal of a highway robber. He wore a cloak over his shoulder, a black hat with a drooping feather, and he had the blackest eyes and whitest teeth I ever saw in a man's head. Ah! but he was a gentleman in the business! He lined six of us up on the road and got a bundle of about \$3,000 in cash, and only one man had a kick to make. He was half an hour about the job, and all the time he was smiling and laughing and making excuses for the delay and inconvenience. He had a couple of guns with him, but he made no theatrical display of them, nor did he indulge in oaths and threats. On the contrary, he was so smooth and gentle and mannerly about his work that I was almost proud to have been relieved of \$700.

"That fellow captured the country from the start. A stage driver who could boast of having been held up by Colonel Tree had a right to hold his head very high, and if any of his victims complained they were charged with ingratitude. The law got after him in due time, of course, and the rewards offered aggregated a small fortune, but it seemed that no one wanted to run him down. It was an understood thing, at least, that he should be taken prisoner instead of being shot down like a dog. Some of his feats rivaled those of Claude Duval and Dick Turpin. He rode a big black horse with a white star in its forehead, and he was here today and 100 miles away tomorrow. The weekly newspapers devoted columns to his adventures, but always spoke of him with admiration. Had they pitched into their action would have been resented on all sides. Colonel Tree ran a career of two long years. He must have had a big lot of gold coin planted somewhere at the end of that time, but I have never heard that it was discovered.

"I can't see how his relatives back in Iowa got on his trail, but one day, at a little town up among the mountains, a letter which had been knocked about for several weeks was handed him. He was just about to set off on one of his expeditions. The boys who saw him read that letter said that tears came to his eyes and he was all knocked out. He tore it up and cast the pieces away and for a time he didn't seem to know what course to take. Then he braced up and started off, but instead of a smile his face wore a look of sorrow and regret. As I was one of his first victims, so I was one of his last, although the first and the last hold-up occurred 200 miles apart. There were five of us in the stage as it crawled over the mountain road one afternoon, and as the mules were halted for breath after a long pull up hill, Colonel Tree stepped out on us. He passed the time of day with the driver, ordered the four of us down as coolly as I am talking to you, and it was only after we were lined up to be despoiled that we noticed anything wrong with him. His face had lost its smile, there was no fun in his eyes, and he was no longer the debonair highwayman of the West past.

"It was plain that he was either ill or heart sick. He made a haul of about \$2,000 off the four of us, but he seemed reluctant to take up the bundle and make off. I have always believed that he was wishing he could sit down for a talk with one of us and lighten his burden by sharing it. It was while he was hesitating and off his guard that one of the passengers, who had hidden his pistol in his bootleg, drew it out and shot him dead in his tracks. The man was an outlaw, and all the rewards he had ever asked for were shooting has always been told to me to have been cold-blooded murder. Others regarded it in the same light, and the shooter was cursed instead of praised.

"I am not defending stage robbers, but I have many times wished that Colonel Tree had escaped the country or been captured and imprisoned. If he had been killed while resisting the legal officers it wouldn't have been so bad. You see, I have always felt sure that letter was from his mother or sister, and she had told of troubles and sorrows and death. There surely was grief and woe to have upset him so. He wasn't a bad man at heart or he wouldn't have shed tears over it. He turned away from that little town with a sob in his throat, and no doubt he had decided that the hold-up should be his last. He had robbed scores of people, but he had never harmed one, and had been as gallant to women as a knight of old, and it wasn't the fair thing to shoot him down like a dog when the tearful letter he had read with a heart-ache was dancing before his eyes and throwing him off his guard."

QUALIFIED WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Official Testimony as to How the Right is Exercised in Massachusetts.

In those States—forty-one of the forty-five—in which full female suffrage does not exist, some effort has been made to determine the propriety or advantage of qualified female suffrage. Some States have female suffrage for municipal officers, some have female suffrage for school officers, some have female suffrage for those paying taxes for a certain amount, and some have female suffrage regulated by local authority. In New York the records suffrage to all persons of full age, and thirty days' residence in a school district, who own or hire or are

in possession of real property in such district liable to taxation for school purposes or who are the parents of children attending school within that district during the year preceding. The concluding part of the State statute is: "No person shall be deemed to be ineligible to vote at any school district meeting by reason of sex." In Massachusetts, section 14 of the electoral statute provides that "Every female citizen having the qualifications of a male voter may have her name entered upon the list of voters for school committee, and shall have the right to vote for members of the school committee."

In the State of Massachusetts the records of public elections, as kept by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, are of a much more comprehensive and thorough character than perhaps in any other State of the country. There are thirty-two cities in Massachusetts, and there are in all 970 voting precincts in the State, of which 591 are in the city of Boston and 272 in the small towns. There has recently appeared, under official authority, the record of the December elections in 1898 for city and school officers, and they show some curious results as to the extent to which woman utilizes the right of suffrage in Massachusetts. In the State election of 1898, at which the vote was wholly cast for male citizens, there were 336,734 voters in Massachusetts. In the city and town election succeeding, the total number of male voters was 368,775, or 30,000 more than at the November election, while the number of female voters in the entire State was only 12,059, a total of 500 less than that at the similar city and county election of the year before.

Of 12,059 votes, 5,201 were cast in the city of Boston, but were unevenly distributed throughout that city. In the Sixth ward of Boston, for instance, in which there were 2,800 male voters, there were only twenty-eight female voters. The Sixth ward of Boston includes most of the waterfront from the Charles River bridge on the south end of the town to Central Wharf, opposite East Boston, and corresponds quite closely to the Fourth and Sixth wards of New York. In the wealthier parts of town, on the other hand, the proportion of the female vote was larger, and in the Twelfth or Back Bay ward the division was as follows: Male, 2,252 and female, 294. In the manufacturing city of Fall River the total female vote cast was 665, and in the manufacturing city of Lynn it was 193. In the town of Pittsfield in western Massachusetts, in the heart of a rich agricultural district, there were only 3 female votes cast. In the city of Springfield there were 44, in Taunton 28 and in Worcester 150. In Holyoke, which has a very large French-Canadian population, there were 77 female votes cast, and in Springfield, in which the proportion of native-born population is much larger, the number was 359. In Somerville, long noted for the controversy waged in it on the temperance question, there were only 85 female votes cast. In New Bedford there were 110, in Medford—where the rum comes from—33, in Chelsea 123, and in Cambridge, the university town, 161.

Both the advocates and opponents of the principle of woman suffrage find encouragement in the figures shown at the last election in Massachusetts, and it may be said generally, without special reference to the views of either, that while the disinclination to vote under the prescribed conditions of suffrage is almost general in Massachusetts, the exercise of the franchise by women is greatest in those communities in which the standard of intelligence is highest.

ONLY THREE CARS ON A TRAIN.

Audacious Curves on the Congo Railroad Make Short Trains Necessary.

Mr. Puttkamer, the Governor of the German colony of the Cameroons, has been making a trip up the Congo on the railroad which was completed in July last. He thinks the road is a great achievement and tells some interesting things about it. The Governor was surprised to find that there was not a tunnel along the 355 miles of the route, that the bridge spans the rivers without any supports, in mid-stream and that in the mountainous regions there are many very sharp curves around which a locomotive is not permitted to draw more than three cars on one train. Passenger trains run at the rate of eighteen miles and freight trains at the rate of ten miles an hour. The passenger trains leave each end of the route three times a week. They meet midway at Tumba, where they spend the night. No trains are run at the night time, and freight trains are sent irregularly and only when there are two or three carloads to be transported. Business requires several freight trains a week.

There is not a single native village along the route. The people do not like the noise of the locomotive or the "bush steamer," as the Kru boys call the formidable machine, and so they have moved back into the tranquility of the country several miles away from the track. Thousands of the natives, however, are in the employ of the Congo State making bet-terments in the road, but they all live at the State stations. The Bangala cannibals from far up the river form the larger part of the working force.

The great need on the upper Congo is more steamboats. All the trading companies and some of the mission stations have steamers of their own, and the State has a fleet of thirty boats, but freight is constantly piling up waiting for transportation. At Stanley Pool there are a number of shipyards where the steamboats are put together, and all of these yards are now scenes of the greatest activity. Most of the engineers and mechanics are Belgians, but there is a sprinkling of Norwegians and Swedes.

Horned cattle are now raised at various places from Matadi, the starting point of the railroad to Stanley Pool, and the whites in the interior are beginning to have an abundance of fresh beef. Many white women are living with their husbands at Matadi, Tumba and Stanley Pool, and seem to enjoy very good health in this region, where fifteen years ago the mortality among the whites was very large.

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