

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1901.

The Latest Move of Chili.

A ten-line item appeared recently in the American newspapers to the effect that Chili had opened negotiations with Salvador to obtain a coaling station in that republic. It was generally surmised by people in the United States familiar with the tactics of Chili that this ambitious and somewhat unscrupulous Republic on the western coast of South America wanted to make ready for any conditions which might arise after the building of the Nicaragua Canal. This belief is also entertained by citizens of other South American republics, and to them it seems a matter of the gravest importance.

Chili is not a popular nation on her own continent. She had been called the bully of South America. Her people are strong, forceful, energetic and ambitious, and with a tendency to militarism which has made them feared by their rival republics. These rivals see in this tendency to expansion a new danger to themselves.

Peru and Bolivia naturally have the greatest fear because they have already felt the oppressive hand of the conquering Chilean. The people of these two nations hate Chili more fervently than even the French do the Germans, and for the same cause.

The war between Chili on the one side and Peru and Bolivia on the other, which in 1879 and 1880 resulted in the overwhelming defeat of the allied republics, had left rancor and national heartburning which time has done little to ease because the terms of peace, entered into at the close of the war, left much to be settled in the future. It is maintained by Peru and Bolivia that Chili has not kept faith and that because of her superior military prowess, made possible by the great indemnity exacted from the conquered countries, she is steadily refusing to do what she promised.

Whether that be true or not, Chili is in a position to act as she pleases toward her two northern neighbors. She has the power to enforce any demands she may make and she has been steadily increasing her military and naval strength. She is enabled to do this by the revenues yielded to her from the Bolivian province of Tarapaca, which came to her as part of her war indemnity.

It is estimated by Peruvians that the amount of export duty collected on salt-petre and iodine from these two provinces from 1879 to 1899 is more than \$560,000,000. The entire indemnity from the two republics is estimated at \$3,000,000,000 and this enormous sum, not paid in bulk, but coming in annual installments, is being applied by the Chileans almost exclusively to the development of their naval and military strength.

Peru and Bolivia on the other hand are correspondingly weakened by the loss of this immense wealth and they have been utterly unable to keep pace in the matter of national armaments. The Argentine Republic is the only power in South America that threatens in any way the domination of Chili as the chief power of that continent.

It is Chili's ambition to play the role of the master in South American international politics. She is not arming herself against Peru and Bolivia, although it is said that she contemplates further exactions from them. There is no cause for her to increase her strength in order to achieve her purposes with references to these two. Her ambitions are higher. She wants to be in a position to hold her own against Argentine and if necessary even against the United States.

It is not likely that Chili would ever pick a quarrel with this country, but if the opinion of her rivals in South America counts for anything, she resents our implied domination in South America. A South American diplomatist now in Washington, who has followed the course of events in his own continent, told a Sun reporter, recently, that there was less friendship and more hostility toward the United States in Chili, than in any of the other Latin republics.

'Chili,' he said, 'is pro Spanish in her sympathy. She resents Anglo-Saxon domination and interference in South American affairs. Her ambition is to form

a union of all South American countries under the tutelage of Spain, with Chili at the helm in this hemisphere, in order to combat what she believes to be the unwarranted pretensions of the great North American Republic.

'Through the riches which she has wrung from Peru and Bolivia, she has been enabled to build up her army and navy utterly disproportionate to her 3,000,000 inhabitants. She is constantly reaching out and encroaching upon the boundaries of her neighbors with a view to enlarging her own territory. Her course, next to the internal revolutions in the various republics, is the most damaging factor in preventing the industrial progress of the continent.

'All the lesser republics, particularly Peru, Bolivia, Columbia, Paraguay and Uruguay, are anxious that the stronger hand of the United States shall exert an influence for arbitration and peace. These nations do not want the old world idea of the nation at arms to get a foothold in this hemisphere. Chili does. Chili wants to rule by force. The old Spanish idea is stronger there than anywhere else.

'Chili knows that the United States favors a scheme for general arbitration over all international difficulties in the two Americas. The other Latin republics also are in favor of this plan. They have expressed their willingness to attend the Pan American Congress to be held in the City of Mexico next summer, but Chili has based her consent upon the condition that no plan affecting the international relations of South American republics shall be authoritatively put forth in the congress. She does not want to be put in a position of refusing to agree to such a plan in case it should come before the Congress and so she asks for a guarantee that no such embarrassment may be forced upon her.

'The United States will do well to keep their eyes on Chili. They have had trouble with her once before and they are likely to have trouble with her again. Her hostile spirit toward this country, however, has been possibly a blessing in disguise, because it has tended to throw into the arms of the United States all those who hate Chili. Chili hates the United States, and therefore those who hate Chili love the United States.

'Chili's threatening attitude has been felt all through South America. Her enormous outlay for the elements of war has compelled a proportionate acquisition by the other republics. The Argentine Republic has spent during the last ten years \$300,000,000 in order to compel Chili to respect her rights and territory. Already we are able to perceive the train of evil consequences following this armed peace regime.

'The militarization of the other republics the absorption of the small States by the more powerful ones, the forming of offensive and defensive alliances, the adoption of protectorates, are all following as the last resources of the weaker States to protect themselves from conquest. Heavy taxes, obligatory military service and standing armies are not only threatening republican institutions through the increase in the importance of the military career but they are retarding the proper economic and industrial development of the people through the financial burdens and the loss of producers from the walks of trade and industry.

'The news that Chili had asked Salvador for the cession of a seaport for a naval station was not unexpected by those who had been watching the career of that arrogant people. No explanation has been offered as to the purpose of this concession or as to the compensation which Chili offers in return for the grant. It is pretty thoroughly understood, however, that the purpose of the movement is to enable Chili to further her desire of continental domination after the building of the Nicaragua Canal and doubtless in line with her policy she has offered poor little Salvador her protecting arm against her neighbors.'

Boiled Water in Ancient Times.
Now that the use of boiled drinking-water has become common, it is interesting

to be reminded that a similar method of guarding against disease was practised in ancient times. Herodotus tells how Cyrus had his drinking-water boiled and carried in silver vessels, and Pliny and Elder relates that Nero had water boiled and afterward cooled for drinking by placing it in glass flasks surrounded with snow.

MARBLE TIME AT HAND.

The Season For It Has Arrived and the Small Boy is Jubilant.

The beginning of the marble season has struck St. John and for the next few weeks the small boy will be jubilant. Every spring, as soon as the snow has begun to melt and small patches of mud begin to appear, activity commences in the marble line and during all his spare time the average youngster is deeply absorbed in one of the many varieties of play.

As far as marbles go there is an almost endless variety, even more kinds than there were eight or ten years ago. There is the ordinary, 'comer,' which can be purchased at the rate of 15 for one cent, and those of the same variety which are a trifle more gaudy in appearance, costing a trifle more. China's may be purchased at the rate of three or four for a cent and the many other smaller varieties of marbles at about the same figure. This season marbles made of Mexican oryx have made their appearance but they have not yet wholly won their way into popularity for it takes time even to introduce a new variety of marbles.

About the most expensive kind offered for sale in the stores are the big glass agates, some of which cost as high as ten cents. Some of them have funny little nickel images blown into the centre of the solid glass while others are colored and decorated with almost as much elaboration and detail as a memorial window. From now on hundreds of them will be sold daily.

The most common game played is one which has stood the test of time and was a favorite, even when the middle aged men of to day were boys and played in the schoolhouse yard at recess. All that is required is a wall or fence or any other vertical surface and two boys with two marbles. This combination has been known to work uninterruptedly for several hours and then again it has ended in a fierce and noisy wrangle inside of five minutes.

In the ordinary game the boy with the largest hand has a distinct advantage. The first player bangs his marble against the wall and carefully notes the place to which it rebounds and settles in the mud. His opponent then carefully measures the distance with his eye and lets drive. Should his marble land within 'spanning' distance of the first his opponent is expected to at once pull one of the tiny little clay spheres out of his pocket and present him with it.

The game which is played with agates is a trifle more strenuous, and as the marbles are frequently broken, oftentimes more expensive. The first player bangs his marble as far as possible into the mud and then waits anxiously while his opponent takes a shot and tries to break it. This is continued indefinitely until one or the other of the marbles is shattered or the players have become wearied with the pastime.

'Rolly polly in the ring,' is another favorite game, with marble lovers. In this instance a ring, perhaps, a foot in diameter, is drawn on the sidewalk with a stick and a marble is placed inside of it. The object is for the opponent to hit this marble with his own and knock it out of the ring. Once on the outside it at once becomes his property. As may be expected by those who have never stayed, neither of these games are very exciting nor are they remarkable for the skill which it requires to play them. Nevertheless they serve to take up time and perhaps keep many boys from more hurtful and dangerous recreation.

As a general thing the game of marbles is not encouraged by fond and loving parents of the ordinary variety. They are apt to think that it may foster a spirit for gambling and perhaps in many cases, they are right. Playing for 'keeps' is certainly a form of gambling but it is one in which the possibilities for harm are exceedingly slight. It is chiefly to those who are bringing up children in what Kipling calls the 'sheltered life system,' that the game seems dangerous. To the average young citizen blessed as he almost always is with good, sound, common sense, marbles offer, but little that is harmful.

Newfoundland's Graveyard.

The rugged coast of Newfoundland seems to possess some mysterious influence upon the shipping that frequents these waters. Its rock-ribbed eastern seaboard is lined with the ruins of hundreds of fine vessels and the bones of thousands of seamen and passengers lie in the deep waters about it.

There is a mystery, too, about many of the wrecks. One day a ship is seen sailing safe on her way. The next day, perhaps, fragments come ashore to tell of her fate, but the manner of her loss may never be known. The recent mysterious loss of the steamer Lucerne is a case in point.

About the same time as the Lucerne, and a few miles nearer St. John's, a schooner or square rigged sailing craft, met her doom under equally mysterious circumstances. No clue has been obtained to her identity. All that is known is that her wreckage in splintered form strews the shore of Black head, three miles from St. John's.

Another mystery identified with Bacalieu, where the Lucerne went down, was the loss of the steamer Lion, fifteen years ago. She left St. John's for Trinity, seven hours' run. On a bright, clear winter's night she disappeared and the body of a woman passenger, floating on the tide the next day, was the sole evidence from then until now of her taking off.

A few years later the same locality chronicled another mysterious disappearance, that of the schooner Emmeline. She was bound from St. John's to Twillingate, carrying a lot of fisher folk. She was seen by another vessel, going the contrary way, as she made for the entrance to Bacalieu Tickle, or Strait, which separates the islet from the mainland. That was about 10 p. m. and the next morning some rifle of deck gear was washed ashore, that being the sole proof that death had come to all on board.

It was six years ago that the British cargo boat Caletro, from Liverpool for Baltimore, missed her reckoning in the fog and crashed into the promontory that marks the extent of Bacalieu peninsula. She became a total loss and three of her men met a watery grave, but the remainder of her people, including the captain's wife, made their way to shore. They were well received and kindly treated, but their belongings and those of the ship were regarded as legitimate spoil by the coast folk, who look on a wreck as a merciful intervention of Providence in their behalf. Promptly was the ship looted, from keelson to truck, and everything portable was conveyed to some secure hiding place, while what could not be easily moved was hacked into convenient pieces for transport, or smashed into fragments for some trifling gain.

When a magistrate was despatched to the scene with a posse of police to compel restitution and punish the offenders, the mother of the ringleader waited upon the judge with an ingenious plea for mercy:

'Oh, judge, don't be too hard on the poor boys!' she said. 'Tis not often they get a chance at anything. Why did them steamer people keep so close to the shore, putting temptation in the way of poor people?'

The judge was callous, and a sentence of six months in the penitentiary gave the wreckers ample opportunity to cogitate on the unwisdom of giving way to such temptations in future.

A few miles distant a large Norwegian bark in ballast was driven ashore in a fierce gale. The crew promptly scrambled ashore and left her to her fate, glad to escape with their lives. When the storm abated the fishermen from the neighborhood assembled in force and stripped her. Again was the magistrate despatched with his minions, and again was swift and sure justice administered to the offenders. On this occasion it was the elderly father of one of the strapping young fishermen who pleaded for his erring offspring.

'I don't know what the Almighty can be thinking of at all, he commented: 'First he sends us a bad fishery and now he sends us a damned Norwegian full of rocks.' Obviously, from this view of it, the looting was of no account.

It is a strange moral code these fisher-

folk have. There is no danger too great for them to brave to rescue the unfortunates on a wreck. The best in a fisherman's house is none too good for the castaway. Yet the very men will then board a derelict and loot her with a thoroughness begotten of long practice. At the same time they will respect the sailor's kitbag as religiously as a sacred emblem.

At another point a large French bark, buffeted by adverse winds, drifted near the shore. The crew, being without food, launched their boat and rowed shoreward, seeing which six of the settlers put off and boarded her. Overjoyed with their prize, they drank generously of a jar of brandy which they found in the cabin. Sleep succeeded, from which they awoke to find their boat broken adrift and themselves confined on a ship which had not a crust. Incredible misery was their portion for six long days, when they at last succeeded in beating into a harbor.

When the big North German steamship Herder was lost near Cape Race a few years ago the natives actually burned whalebone worth \$15,000 a ton to obtain light to save leather valued at 20 cents a pound. When the Arabela's cargo was being salvaged they ruthlessly smashed in pieces crates of the daintiest of glassware for table use to get out two cases of French prayer books, worth about 25 cents each.

Three men in a nearby harbor once got ashore a piano, and having no idea of its value or how to dispose of it, tried to solve the difficulty by the Solomon-like expedient of sawing it into three pieces. The Grabsbrook wreck enabled the musical talent of a long stretch of coast to be cultivated through the medium of a deluge of German concertinas, and the loss of the Hanoverian in 1890 provided the shore with such a stock of Chicago canned meat that it is said it is still a staple article of diet there.

NEW USES FOR SAWDUST.

Machinery Invented to Extract Its Valuable Products.

Scientific men have long been engaged in the study of methods of utilizing waste products, such as sewage, garbage and many other things, formerly thrown away as worthless. After it is ascertained just what these materials contain that can be utilized, ingenious men set their wits to work to invent machinery and devise processes by which the valuable commodities may be extracted. In this way many million dollars' worth of oils, fertilizers and other useful substances are now saved and the world is so much the richer.

A great deal of sawdust has always gone to waste though many mills have used it to supplement their fuel supply. Chemical analysts have been at work on the sawdust problem and it has been shown clearly that it contains very useful elements that are worth saving; and now machinery has been invented to extract these materials.

The experiments have proven that 1,000 pounds of sawdust will yield about 160 pounds of char which is practically the same as charcoal and equally serviceable; 180 pounds of acids, 160 pounds of tar and a quantity of gases that have been tested for heating and illuminating and found to be excellent for both purposes. While the acids, tar and char are the products particularly desired, it is said the gases are of commercial value.

A machine has been invented in Montreal for the purpose of distilling sawdust and obtaining the desired products. Consul General Bittinger writes that the machine treats about 2,000 pounds of wet sawdust an hour. As Canada manufactures enormous quantities of lumber it is expected that the utilization of sawdust in that country will be an important source of valuable commodities.

There are twenty places in Europe where oxalic acid is extracted from sawdust. In Scotland sawdust is used to make floor cloth, coarse wrapping paper and millboard which is a kind of pasteboard used by book makers in the covers of books. Thus sawdust, once thought to be a good deal of a nuisance, is beginning to be considered quite a useful article.