

into the controversy, and after a conference in the office the foreman was discharged, and that little woman is still shop woman on that trimming floor, and there isn't any foreman in that factory who thinks he can insult a girl while she is at work just because she is a foreigner and poor.

Now, I submit that the organization of laborers known as the United Hatters of North America had more power on that trimming floor, not only to preserve fair wages and hours, but to preserve individual virtue and the hope and fidelity of the home for poor and sorely tempted working girls, than all the churches and universities within the limits of that city. Yet this is the organization that, in extending its benefits to other workers in other factories, is condemned as "a conspiracy in restraint of trade"!

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### NATIONAL NEIGHBORLINESS.

**A Plea For Neighborly Relations With Spanish-America, Rather Than Paternalistic Meddling.**  
*Editorial in the New York Times*  
 of February 23, 1909.

Regard for our commercial welfare demands a careful consideration of our relations with our Latin neighbors of South America, and the development of such cordial official understanding with these nations will favor our efforts for trade development. We have complacently viewed the voyage of a fleet of battleships around the South American coasts, the formal and official visits of a member of our Cabinet to those countries, and the official courtesies with which the most polite race in the world has received them as evidences of existing good will and eternal friendship. But formal and official protestations of affection need something behind them to establish good understanding in fact.

Each new development of our attitude toward that continent is closely scrutinized by each of the Latin republics. The recent change in our interpretation and application of the Monroe Doctrine, until it is no longer a shield for the weak, has been shrewdly followed by their statesmen, while the Calvo doctrine has been called into existence to serve as a check against the encroachments of the future. Since we began to cherish the desire to be considered a "world power" no eyes have followed our policies more keenly than those of these southern neighbors. True it is, perhaps, that we have accomplished "results," careless of the practical benefits or evils that would follow them, to leave entirely out of consideration any merely academic questions of justice, equity, or fair play. We foment, aid and conduct a revolution against the United States of Colombia to a successful end, and that act would seem to commit us to sympathizing and

sustaining revolt against injustice, oppression and corruption. If it did, indeed, do this, there could be no cavil in the minds of any, either Latin or Anglo-Saxon. But scarcely has this revolutionary attainment been accomplished on the Isthmus than we promptly use the same powerful administrative machinery to suppress a revolution in Cuba—in this case a revolution against an inefficient political domination, so entrenched, however, that nothing less than an armed revolt could loosen its grasp.

We enter Central America and give peremptory orders as to their treaties and compel their signatures. Our officials announce what cities shall not be bombarded and limit the scope of the military operations of the forces in the countries to which they are accredited. To Venezuela we present a demand for the arbitration of a dispute, involving the interpretation of her laws, which has never been entered for trial within Venezuelan courts. We insist upon indemnity, and secure it, for another claimant whose naturalization is under grave suspicion.

And while we are busily engaged with these strenuous demands, the other nations are exerting themselves to further their official and commercial friendships that we carelessly imperil. While Venezuela has been struggling with the domestic problems and crises attending the sudden stormy advent of a new administration, we have been jogging her elbow with our insistent exactions, leaving it to Germany to play the part of mentor and faithful friend of the new régime. England has for the moment tactfully refrained from urging her grievances. Italy cordially greets the new administration by at once establishing a minister in Carracas in place of a chargé d'affaires. It is we alone who have seized this moment of Venezuelan stress and difficulty to clamor for the settlement of a disputed bill.

It is worth while for us to take thought about the effect of these procedures upon the minds of the statesmen and the peoples of the Latin republics. The policies we establish today may cause the gravest complications in the future. Surely it would be unwise to excite distrust and apprehension among peoples who should be our best customers. President Monroe pointed out that it is wise to preserve our neighbor's house from burglary, for by so doing it assists us in the protection of our own. But that principle carries with it no corollary of the right to regulate his domestic affairs as well, nor to proscribe or impose his diet.

Whatever energies we may devote to South or Central America can best be spent in furthering the most cordial relations and policies of which our whole commerce may share the benefit, rather than in the rescuing of dubious enterprises or in irritating altruistic meddling.