

Cos. de N. Y.



West Hoboken, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 82  
N. Washington, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 82 - 1p.

General,

This communication being prompted by a sincere regard and profound sympathy for your Country, in her present hour of trial, I need not, I <sup>am</sup> sure, although quite a stranger, apologise for the liberty I take in addressing you, on whom the hopes of thousands of your people is centered.

I began a start early this morning, in pursuance of a promise made last evening to several of my Countrymen - men of large capital - with the view of calling at your hotel and asking an audience; but before I had fairly passed the portal of my home I met with an accident - a slight, but for some hours, a painful one - which will confine me to the house three or four days, if not longer.

In order, therefore, that valuable time may not be lost I venture to present, in writing, the main features of a convention that I had been authorized, and hoped to propose, or rather suggest to you in a personal interview.

The exorbitant and extortionate demand, of money and territory, made by the Chilean Government, of Peru, as a war indemnity, has excited indignation everywhere throughout this Republic

2) Republic. This avarice and ambitious greed, together with the vandalism and the barbarities committed by General Lynch, and his hordes, on many occasions, have left Chili scarcely a friend, or well-wisher among my countrymen. Perhaps the insolent airs, the affected modesty, <sup>and</sup> the hypocrisy, alternately exhibited by that Bantam nation, have something to do with the sentiments Americans entertain towards her. Be this as it may, I know that in every hundred of our people there are at least ninety, who would be glad to see a sudden change in the fortunes of war — glad to see the tables so turned that the Peruvians could, in revenge and reprisal, make the vix victis felt over the length and breadth of the enemy's domain.

The question has often been asked, and intelligibly discussed, by American financiers and speculators, "why Peru, instead of listening to the terms and conditions demanded by Chili, should not make use of the territory coveted by the latter, to raise the 'sinews of war' for the reorganization of her Army?" when it would be easy, with the support of her old ally, and such foreign aid as she could receive, to drive the invader from the soil — drive Chili into paying a war indemnity at least as heavy as that she had demanded, when Fortune smiled on her arms.

Now, is the scheme, is the consummation implied  
by

by the foregoing inquiry, possible? That is the greater question.

I undertake to answer, by declaring that there are many American Capitalists, and a far greater number of Military men, who hold the affirmative — who are willing, and ready, if fair inducements and assurances can, as they believe, be given by the present, or any future Government of Peru, to back their opinions; the one class with money, and the other with the sword.

The Capitalists to whom I refer would not care to invest in <sup>Peruvian</sup> Government Securities; indeed they never have to do with U. S. Bonds, except as collaterals. The convention that I am commissioned to suggest to you leads <sup>in</sup> a very different direction. The Chilians, as we have seen, demand the cession of Tarapacca, and the great guano deposits, with possession of Tacna, &c. &c. Now, would it not be better, rather than submit to this robbery, to the disintegration of the State, for Peru to give to some American Corporation, or Company, a lease of ~~the lands~~ a portion of the territory in question, with leave to work the nitrate beds and guano deposits, <sup>for a term of years,</sup> in consideration of a rental, which, with auxillary advantages incident to the transaction, would enable her to put <sup>her</sup> armies on an aggressive footing, and drive the insolent enemy to his home.

In view of the inaccessibility of these lands owing to ~~the~~ their

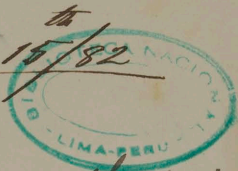


4) their occupation by Chilean forces, by suggestion at first blush, seem chimerical; but it is the firm and deliberate conviction of the gentlemen whose spokesman I am, that upon such a lease as I have described, a scheme may be founded and operated to the advantage of both parties to the indenture.

For example — without entering into plans, or details the lessees, as a Corporation, or Company, would at once employ <sup>in this Country</sup> five thousand, or more, men to work the beds and deposits. As the lands and property in question are exposed to the incursions of marauders, it is proposed to select as employees none but men who have had military experience, or, at least, some training in the militia. Every employee would, of course, for his own protection, take his rifle, &c. and other requisites. In order to augment the interest of the employees, it is further proposed to give each man a certain percentage on the profits of the business, in addition to his monthly hire, which will give one and all a commercial and property interest in the leasehold. It is already known that a sufficient number of men — three times the number mentioned, if necessary — to make the undertaking a success, can be readily procured.

There would be nothing in an arrangement of this kind, not perfectly right and lawful. At the same time, it is

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is quite probable - indeed it is quite certain - that in the event of an American Company setting on foot an undertaking of the magnitude and character indicated, the fact will no sooner become known to the Chilean Minister, at Washington, than he will make representations to our Government that our neutrality laws are being violated, by the fitting out of a warlike expedition against a friendly power. Such an allegation, however, would not be true in either a legal, or <sup>an</sup> international sense. The arrangement proposed possesses all the elements of a commercial enterprise, and can be carried out without any breach of the laws of neutrality, and without provoking the ~~feeling of displeasure~~ ~~of our Government~~ displeasure of our Government.

Americans have the same right to emigrate to Peru, in large bodies, that Irish and Germans have to come in droves to this country. And, once on Peruvian soil, the proposed Company and their employes would have a right to the possession ~~of the~~ and enjoyment of the lands and property conveyed by the lease; and should their way be obstructed, or their business interfered

6) interpered with by Indians, or Chilians, they would be justifiable in kicking the intruders from their path— from their property. The possibility, or even a probability, that the emigrants, or employees of the <sup>proposed</sup> Company, ~~will~~ may meet with annoyances from Chilians which they would resent, cannot impair or affect the commercial character of the enterprise. To go further still, if the persevering and persuasive Mr. Godoy could convince the Secretary of State and the President that nine in ten of the employees would, on reaching Peru, prefer joining the army to working in the nitrate and guano deposits, and would do so, it would not justify the Government in interfering with the <sup>Company's</sup> perfectly lawful project. I may add (although it was not intended to trouble you at present with a word touching the carrying out of the undertaking) that the proponents believe that, with the facilities at their command, they can embark, and even land, the whole number of men desirable, before the Chilian Minister can get an inkling of the enterprise.

But enough. I have been more than sufficiently full and explicit to enable you to form an opinion whether, or not, the scheme in question is feasible, and, if deemed to be so, to perceive the nature and extent of the advantages calculated to accrue to your Country from  
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from its consummation.

May I, then, make bold to ask you to intimate to me in a line, not whether you would as a citizen, or as the ~~Press~~ Executive of Peru favor the arrangement suggested, but simply whether, in your judgement, the scheme possesses sufficient promise or merit to entitle it to your serious consideration.

I venture to ask this because, unless you are inclined to view the suggestion with favor, it is unnecessary that I should trouble you for an audience.

Trusting that, however the subject may impress you, you will consider my letter strictly confidential,

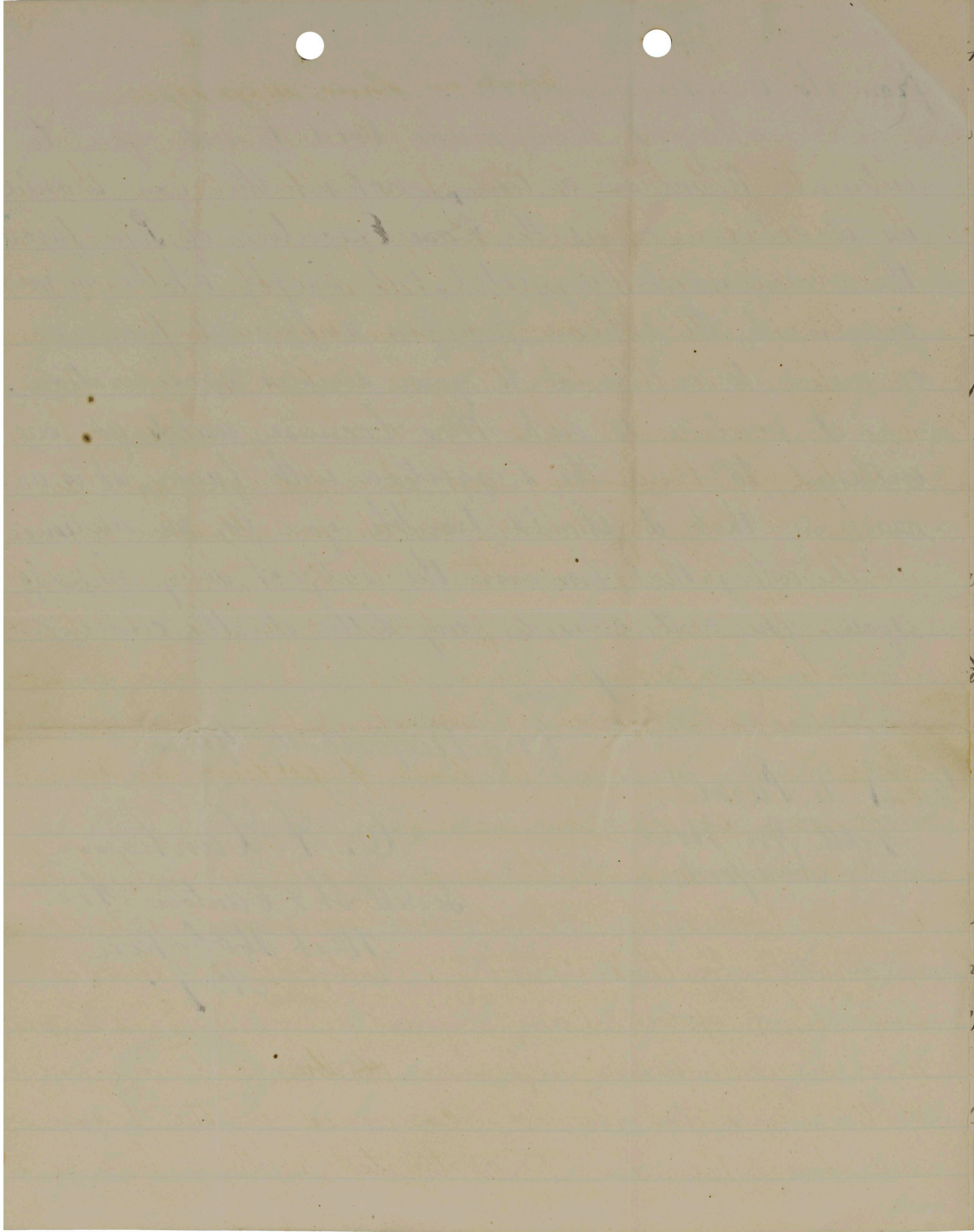
I am,

Very Respectfully Yours,

Gen. N. de Pierola,  
Fifth Ave. Hotel,  
New York.

C. A. Dunham,  
Serrell St. & Clinton Ave.  
West Hoboken,  
N. J.







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1. Carta 15-11-1882 4f.

CORRESPONDENCIA C. A. DUNHAM

2. Carta 15-11-1882 4f.

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ESTADO DE CALIFORNIA

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