BOLIVIA.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND PERU—RETIREMENT OF BOTH PARTIES FROM THE HEATH TERRITORY.

Minister Sorsby to the Secretary of State.

No. 252.] AMERICAN LEGATION,
La Paz, Bolivia, July 14, 1906.

Sir: I have the honor to report that the Peruvian minister here, acting upon instructions from his Government, has protested, orally, to the Bolivian foreign office against the occupation by General Pando, ex-president, and the actual Bolivian delegate (governor) to the Beni and upper Acre regions, of the territory pertaining to the river Heath, a tributary of the Madre de Dios; the said protest being upon the ground that said territory forms a part of the disputed territory under arbitration between the respective countries, and is now being actually considered by the arbitrator, the President of the Argentine Republic.

The Bolivian minister of foreign affairs has stated to me that his Government would retire from the disputed territory provided that Peru would also retire pending the result of the arbitral decision, it appearing, according to the information and belief of the Bolivian Government, that Peruvian forces are also in occupation of the disputed territory. Both the Bolivian minister of foreign affairs and the Peruvian minister here express confidence that an amicable arrangement will be had pending the decision of arbitration.

I have, etc.,

WILLIAM B. SORSBY.

LAW GRANTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN BOLIVIA.

Minister Sorsby to the Secretary of State.

No. 260.] AMERICAN LEGATION,
La Paz, Bolivia, September 12, 1906.

Sir: Referring to previous dispatches relative to religious liberty in Bolivia, I have the honor to report that on August 24 last the Bolivian Congress voted to reform Article II of the Political Constitution as per inclosed copy of congressional and executive decrees.

I have, etc.,

WILLIAM B. SORSBY.
BOLIVIA.

[Inclosure—Translation.]

Ismael Montes, Constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia.

Whereas the National Congress has sanctioned the following law:
The National Congress decrees:

ARTICLE 1. Declaring the necessity of the reform of Article II of the Political Constitution of the State, consequently the constitutional law is sanctioned as follows:

"The State recognizes and sustains the Catholic, Roman Catholic religion, permitting the public exercise of every other religious worship."

To be communicated to the Executive for the consequent constitutional purposes.

Hall of Sessions of the Honorable Congress, La Paz, August 24, 1906.
(Signed) Valentin Abeija.
(Signed) Isaac Aranibar.
(Signed) Jose Carrasco.
(Signed) Secretory of the Senate.
(Signed) Casto Rios.
(Signed) Aurelio Gamara. G.

Wherefore it is promulgated as a law of the Republic.

Palace of the Government in La Paz, August 27, 1906.
(Signed) Ismael Montes.
(Signed) Anibal Capriles.
Minister of Government and Public Works.

PARCELS-POST ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN BOLIVIA AND THE UNITED STATES. TRANSIT THROUGH PERU.

Minister Sorsby to the Secretary of State.

[Extract.]

No. 226.]

American Legation,
La Paz, Bolivia, February 22, 1906.

Sir: I have the honor to report with respect to our treaty with Bolivia for the interchange of postal parcels, that while such parcels have all along been sent from the United States to Bolivia without inconvenience, owing to some objection, the exact nature of which I have been unable to ascertain, Peru refuses to allow the transit of post parcels from Bolivia destined for the United States.

This matter was called to my attention the early part of last year and I took it up with the Peruvian minister here and the Bolivian minister for foreign affairs, and we thought that the matter had been arranged; but recently I found that Peru still refuses to permit the transit of parcels for the United States, and I again saw the Peruvian minister here and the minister for foreign affairs, and the Peruvian minister has again taken up the matter with his Government, recommending that transit be allowed.

I have the honor, etc., etc.,

William B. Sorsby.

Minister Sorsby to the Secretary of State.

No. 230.]

American Legation,
La Paz, Bolivia, March 15, 1906.

Sir: Referring to my No. 226 of February 22 last, relative to Peru's previous unfavorable attitude toward the execution of the
parcels-post treaty between Bolivia and the United States, I now have the honor to report that I am informed by the Bolivian minister of foreign affairs that Peru has finally consented to facilitate the transit of all postal parcels between the United States and Bolivia and that instructions to that effect have been given to the respective subordinate authorities.

I have the honor, etc., etc.,

WILLIAM B. SORSBY.

VISIT OF SECRETARY ROOT TO SOUTH AMERICA.

[Telegram.]

Minister Sorsby to the Secretary of State.

LA PAZ, May 8, 1906.

Government of Bolivia extends through the legation cordial invitation Secretary of State to visit Bolivia during his southern trip. Bolivian minister at Washington also has been instructed.

SORSBY.

The Secretary of State to the Bolivian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 12, 1906.

MY DEAR MR. CALDERON: I regret very much that on a careful reexamination of the engagements which I have already made for my journey to South America next summer and a computation of the time necessary to keep those engagements, I find it quite impossible for me to make a visit to La Paz and keep within my limits.

I am very sorry, for I am most anxious to see your beautiful and romantic country and to become acquainted with your distinguished public men. I believe Bolivia, under the wise and statesmanlike policy which now directs her Government, is destined for a great and prosperous future, and I should be glad to increase the pleasant association between Bolivia and the United States by a personal visit. I hope that at some other time that may be possible.

In the meantime I beg to convey to your Government an expression of my thanks and of my high appreciation of the courtesy and kindness which has led to the invitation handed to me by you.

With kind regards, I am, etc.,

ELIHU ROOT.