

URGED TO ARBITRATE

Secretary Hay Asks For Answers to Proposal.

ACTION FOLLOWS CABINET MEETING

Italian Minister Announces That His Government Has Joined the Powers—Dewey's Fleet of Warships to Be Held in Readiness.

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It may be said on the highest authority that no matter what may be the outcome of the present Venezuelan difficulties the administration will not recede one jot from the stand taken on the Monroe doctrine by President Roosevelt in his message to congress...

The Italian ambassador during the day called at the state department and advised Secretary Hay that Italy has joined the allies in the operations against Venezuela. He requested that Mr. Bowen assume charge of the Italian interests in Venezuela...

Estimated at between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 bolivars, Italy's claims are considerably in excess of those of Great Britain, and the course of the Rome government in not acting hastily in the matter has commended itself to the state department.

Disposition of the men-of-war of Admiral Dewey's fleet during the holidays is to be made under the direction of the secretary of the navy in view of the increasing complications arising in connection with Venezuela and the wishes of this government not to arouse suspicion unnecessarily by dispatching a large naval force to Venezuelan waters...

NO SIGNS OF SETTLEMENT.

England Does Not Consider Favorably Arbitration Proposal.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—Judging from statements given out by the foreign office, the Venezuelan situation does not appear to be any nearer a settlement. No suggestion has yet been made that Great Britain could eventually see its way to submitting its claims to arbitration...

The willingness of Venezuela to arbitrate the financial claims, however, will meet with no opposition in official circles in London, nor is there any desire to stir up opposition here by continuing unnecessarily the present armed compact with Germany...

With the guarantee of the United States, the foreign office says, arbitration in the Venezuelan matter would be an immediate probability, but with only the word of a government hitherto unreliable arbitration is difficult of accepting...

Spain Wants Her Pay.

CARACAS, Dec. 17.—The Spanish minister to Venezuela, Senor Gaytan de Ayala, and the Belgian charge d'affaires, M. Van der Heyde, have presented a joint letter to the Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs in which they ask, in case the claims of other foreign powers are paid by Venezuela...

Italian Minister Leaves Post.

CARACAS, Dec. 17.—The Italian minister to Venezuela, Signor de Riva, received orders from Rome to leave Caracas this morning. He went on board the Italian cruiser Giovanni Bausan at La Guayra.

PARTRIDGE RESIGNS.

The New York Police Commissioner Pleads Loss of Health.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—By handing in his resignation Police Commissioner John N. Partridge forestalled the action of the City club, which had planned to demand his head from Mayor Low. While a committee appointed by this club was in session at the Astor House preparing to move on the city hall with a recommendation that the police commissioner be dismissed...

Commissioner Partridge asks that his resignation take effect on Jan. 1, 1903. His successor, while not yet decided upon, will, it is rumored, be First Deputy Police Commissioner Elstein of Brooklyn. Other names mentioned are those of former District Attorney Eugene A. Philbin and F. Norton Goddard.

FIVE CHILDREN DEAD.

Terrific Explosion of Gas Wrecks a House and Kills Inmates.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The five children of George Pheurgia of Fort Lee were killed by an explosion of acetylene gas at his home. The mother of the children is hovering between life and death at the Englewood hospital. She is crazed by the loss of her little ones and injured internally herself, but the doctors hope to save her life.

TUNNEL FRANCHISE GRANTED.

New York Aldermen Vote For Big Pennsylvania Railroad Scheme.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Pennsylvania \$50,000,000 tunnel franchise was passed by the board of aldermen last evening by a vote of 41 to 33. The fight was a bitter one, each side insisting that it had a majority up to the roll call.

To Avert a Panic.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Concerted action has been taken by Wall street banks and trust companies to avert a possible panic and disastrous failures in the stock market between now and Jan. 1. A money pool, with \$40,000,000 in cash, has been formed to extend relief by lending money in the call market...

New Departure in Methodism.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 17.—For the first time in the history of the Methodist church since the civil war important commissions from the church north and the church south have arranged to hold a joint meeting on interests of like importance to both branches. This will occur on the 10th of next month, when a commission of the church north of eleven members who have in process of preparation a new hymnal for the denomination will meet with a similar commission of eleven men from the church south at Nashville, Tenn.

Many Coal Mines Flooded.

TAMAUCA, Pa., Dec. 17.—Nearly all the mines in this section are flooded as the result of the heavy rainstorm which has prevailed in this section. As a result it is expected that the shipments to the market from this section between now and the first of the new year will be small. A dispatch from Shamokin says that the rainstorm and the melting snow have covered the upper levels of a number of collieries, and if the rain continues the mules at several of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company's mines will be hoisted to the surface.

A Premature Obituary.

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 16.—A report was circulated about the village of Edineston that Solomon Harrington, one of the best known citizens, was dead. His obituary appeared in print on Sunday. When friends called to condole with the bereaved family, they were met at the door by Mr. Harrington. When he appeared in church later, some persons in the congregation were unnerved.

Big Deal in Steel.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Judge Albert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel corporation, announces the purchase of the Union and Sharon plants of the Union Steel company, near Pittsburgh, the transaction involving a bond issue of \$45,000,000. Judge Gary gave out the following statement, embodying details of the transaction:

Mad Mullah Killed.

ADEN, Arabia, Dec. 12.—It is reported that the Mad Mullah of Somaliland has been assassinated by a spear thrust in the stomach while at prayer.

TRANSFER OF POWER

Wilson, Not Shaw, to Control Live Stock Contagion.

TREATY WITH SPAIN IS RATIFIED.

Senate in Executive Session Discusses the Venezuelan Situation, but Finds No Cause For Immediate Action.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The house yesterday passed the bill transferring from the treasury department to the department of agriculture the power to establish regulation for the suppression of contagious diseases among live stock and devoted the remainder of the day to the legislative appropriation bill, on which rapid progress was made.

In the senate Mr. Dillingham concluded his remarks in opposition to the omnibus statehood bill, and by unanimous consent it was agreed there should be no further discussion of the measure until the senate reconvenes on Jan. 5.

The senate in executive session ratified the treaty of friendship and general relations between the United States and Spain. The Spanish treaty was ratified without debate or division. The attendance was small, and as soon as the treaty had been read, this formally taking about half an hour, Senator Lodge, who was in the chair, put the question, and, there being no dissent, he declared the resolution of ratification carried by the necessary two-thirds vote.

The Venezuelan question occupied the attention of the senate in executive session for almost an hour. The question came up informally almost immediately after the public was excluded. Senator Teller, disclaiming all intention of being critical and saying he merely desired information, asked Senator Callom, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, what information he possessed as to the Venezuelan affair.

Senator Callom replied to the inquiry that he had no knowledge of recent events not contained in the public prints. Messrs. Bacon, Hoar, Lodge and Stewart all made remarks. In none of the addresses was anything harsh or critical said. The tone of all the speeches, whether by Republicans or Democrats, was that our position as a nation should be one of watchfulness. There was general agreement that while the means adopted by Great Britain and Germany for the collection of their debts had been quite strenuous they thus far had committed no infringement of the Monroe doctrine and therefore had done nothing to which the United States could take exception.

Joint Stock Shares Taxable.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The court of appeals has handed down an opinion holding that the shares of stock which George Jones, part owner of the New York Times, held in the joint stock association which published that paper are taxable under the inheritance tax law as personal property. This case has been pending in the courts for several years and has attracted much attention among lawyers, because the question of the taxability of shares in a joint stock association as personal property has never been decided in this country and because if they were held so taxable the same principle would cover the shares of stock in all the big express companies and other joint stock enterprises.

Rain Timely For New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Yesterday's downpour of rain saved the city \$100,000. Had the rain kept off another day it would have cost the city, according to the officials of the street cleaning department, \$200,000 to remove the snow remaining on the streets. With the help of the rain the work can be done for \$40,000.

Another Million From Rockefeller.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—President Harper of the University of Chicago at the convocation exercises announced the gift by John D. Rockefeller of another million dollars to that institution. Additional gifts were announced, the whole amount aggregating \$1,525,000.

Another Boodler Sentenced.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.—John H. Schnetler, former member of the house of delegates, has been convicted of bribery in connection with the suburban franchise deal and was given four years in the penitentiary. This is the ninth boodler case disposed of thus far.

Cat's Scratch Caused Death.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—From so insignificant a wound as the scratch of a Maltese kitten Theodore F. Rogers, an engineer of 9 Mitchell place, has died in the agonies of hydrophobia at Bellevue hospital. Nothing could be done to alleviate his torture.

Used Stamps For Fuel.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—By burning \$1,000,000 in stamps the government employees in the bureau of engraving and printing were kept warm last month and a saving of \$150 in coal bills made.

New Poisons Discovered.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Professor Julius Schlotterback, professor of pharmacology in the University of Michigan, has discovered seven new poisons, says a special to the Tribune from Ann Arbor, Mich.

A Chance For Bear Hunters.

PORT HENRY, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Bears here reported very numerous in the Adirondacks this winter. Old trappers say that not in years have so many been seen.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Notable Events of the Week Briefly and tersely told.

Employees in the car shops at Pullman, Ill., have refused to work on Sunday.

It is estimated that the Hillsboro (N. M.) bank lost \$20,000 in the robbery there.

Comptroller Ridgely has closed the National Bank of South Pennsylvania at Hyndman.

Twenty-four Macedonian workmen have been killed by Turkish frontier guards near Sofia.

A maniac in Lapere, Mich., killed a boarder, wounded his mother and sister and committed suicide.

General Bliss has arrived in Washington from Havana, bringing the reciprocity treaty signed last week.

Three bank robbers were ambushed at Alford, Tex. One was killed, one fatally wounded and the third captured.

Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Sol Hirsch, ex-United States minister to Turkey, died in Portland, Ore.

Heavy rains continued in the Mississippi valley, and many streams were over banks.

Albany, N. Y., was threatened with a meet famine owing to delay of trains by heavy snow.

Chicago packers stated that the new German tariff bill would cut off a quarter of their provision export trade.

The congregation of the propanoia recommended the appointment of Bishop Quinley of Buffalo as archbishop of Chicago.

Allee Hopkins was murdered at Live Oak, Fla., by John Burns, her throat being cut from ear to ear and her lower limbs cut off.

Monday, Dec. 15.

Almost the entire town of Liverpool, N. S., was destroyed by fire.

An international expedition was opened by President Biscoe at Santiago, Chile.

Incoming steamers reported severe gales and tempestuous weather on the Atlantic.

Two men were killed and half a dozen others hurt in an explosion in the water tunnel under Lake Erie at Cleveland, O.

The Victoria hotel in Quebec was completely destroyed by fire. The guests and employees escaped uninjured. Loss about \$110,000.

Saturday, Dec. 13.

The protocol of the proposed commercial treaty between Cuba and the United States was signed at Havana.

George W. Simmons, master mechanic of the Reading Railroad company, was killed by an engine at Harrisburg.

John Barrett declined the Japanese mission. The post may be offered to Lloyd Griscom, Jr., now minister to Persia.

The Western National and the National Bank of the United States in New York consolidated and will have a capital of \$10,000,000.

One Yale student was fined \$200 and three others \$100 each for assaulting a spectator in tickets for the football game with Harvard.

The Georgia legislature has passed and the governor will sign a bill providing an ad valorem tax on franchises of all corporations exercising right of eminent domain.

Friday, Dec. 12.

Terrific snowstorms were reported in the southern provinces of Russia.

A saltcellar of the Elizabethan period brought \$15,000 at a London auction.

British and Belgian flags were hauled down by Chinese in a mine dispute in Chili.

The tool and ax trust, with \$42,000,000 capital, has been practically completed.

The steamship Empress of India brought to Victoria, B. C., from the orient a cargo of silk valued at \$2,000,000.

A large quantity of nitroglycerin exploded at the Pittman Powder company's plant, Maxim, N. J., wrecking several buildings.

Thursday, Dec. 11.

Fire caused a loss of \$200,000 in Fremont, O.

The great Nile reservoir was opened by the khedive of Egypt.

One fireman was killed and four hurt by falling walls at Toledo, O.

Marseilles strikers decided against further negotiations and will continue out.

The tugboat Pontiac was sunk by ice in the Hudson near Albany. The crew was saved.

The betrothal was announced at Berlin of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar to Princess Caroline of Reuss.

Moroccan rebels were reported to have the sultan's forces hemmed in and hitherto loyal tribes to be joining the forces of the pretender.

Eighteen Gypsies Frozen.

VIENNA, Dec. 17.—Eighteen gypsies who were encamped at Biseney, near Arad, Hungary, have been frozen to death. Many persons in other parts of the country have also met their deaths as a result of the intense cold weather prevailing.

Cabinet Only Lasted Ten Days.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 17.—The coalition cabinet has resigned after having been ten days in power. The resignation of the ministers was an outcome of a disagreement between the cabinet and President Riesco over election matters.

Hot in New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 16.—The weather is the hottest for this season of the year in nearly a century. Straw hats and shirt waists are out in full force, and flowers are in full bloom.

Switzerland's New President.

BERNE, Dec. 12.—Vice-President Decher has been elected president of the Swiss confederation.

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THE MARKETS. BLOOMSBURG MARKETS. CORRECTED WEEKLY. RETAIL PRICES. Butter, per pound, 32. Eggs, per dozen, 28. Lard, per pound, 15. Ham, per pound, 14 to 16. Beef (quarter), per pound, 6 to 8. Wheat, per bushel, 1.00. Oats, do, 40. Rye, do, 40. Flour per bbl, 4.00 to 4.40. Hay, per ton, 15.00. Potatoes, (new), per bushel, 70. Turnips, do, 40. Tallow, per pound, 40. Shoulder, do, 12. Side meat, do, 18. Vinegar, per qt., 10. Dried apples, per pound, 05. Cow hides, do, 30. Steer do, do, 30. Calf skin, do, 80. Sheep pelts, do, 75. Shelled corn, per bushel, 80. Corn meal, cwt., 2.00. Bran, cwt., 1.20. Chop, cwt., 1.50. Middlings, cwt., 1.40. Chickens, per pound, new, 10. do, do, old, 10. Turkeys, do, 15. Geese, do, 12. Ducks, do, 11. COAL. Number 6, delivered, 3.50. do 4 and 5 delivered, 4.45. do 6, at yard, 3.10. do 4 and 5, at yard, 4.25.

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