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**FORT BOMBARDED.**

German Warships Shell San Carlos, Venezuela.  
Fort Is Badly Damaged—Twelve Venezuelan Soldiers Killed and Fifteen Others Seriously Wounded—Village of San Carlos Partially Destroyed.

Maracaibo, Jan. 22.—Three German warships, supposed to be the Panther, Vineta and Falke, began shelling Fort San Carlos at 10:30 o'clock Wednesday morning. The fort returned the fire.

At 1 o'clock in the afternoon an explosion occurred apparently in the fort and a cloud of smoke covered part of the ramparts. A number of Indian fishermen were intercepted fleeing from the direction of the fort in their dugout canoes. They reported that the smoke seen was from the burning village of San Carlos, which had been shelled by the German ships and was in flames.

Maracaibo, Jan. 23.—The bombardment of Fort San Carlos by the German cruisers Vineta, Panther and Falke was resumed Thursday at day-break. The first shells were hurled at the fort at 4 o'clock, at long range. At 6 o'clock the Panther, being of light draught, closed in and again became actively engaged. The fort replied. At 8 o'clock the engagement was proceeding as fiercely as on Wednesday.

The Panther left her position close to Fort San Carlos, which she took up earlier in the day, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock and joined the Falke. This ship was half a mile outside the bar and about five miles from the fort. At 3 o'clock the correspondent of the Associated Press, in a rowboat, approached one side of the fort, out of range, and from this point witnessed the long range fire of the cruisers, which was continued from 3 until 6 o'clock. The Vineta and the Falke were close together and nearer the fort than the Panther.

The first two vessels at a range of four and a half miles poured a continuous rain of shell on the fort and only stopped firing at dusk. At this hour the German vessels retired seaward, after having made a second ineffectual attempt to land troops at the village of San Carlos, situated at the base of the fort. At 7 o'clock the correspondent, accompanied by a government telegrapher bearing a telegram from President Castro to the commandant of San Carlos, landed on the island and entered the fort. The walls of the fort are terribly battered and there were many evidences of a fierce engagement.

Twelve dead Venezuelan soldiers were counted behind the ramparts and 15 other men, seriously wounded, were lying on a low platform. The fort is literally covered with pieces of broken shell. It was seen that a great many of the German shells had not exploded. The magazine had a very narrow escape, two shells having come within an ace of penetrating it. The walls of the fort which face towards the entrance of the lake suffered and were greatly diminished. It is estimated by the commandant, Gen. Bello, that the German ships fired more than 1,600 shells at San Carlos.

Some of the artillery on the fort has been destroyed by the German fire, but there are still five guns that can be used.

Although the damage inflicted on the fort by the sustained fire of the German cruisers is very great, it is not all that could be expected from such a continuous fire from modern high power guns. The village of San Carlos suffered greatly. The aim of the German gunners appears to have been inaccurate, for more than 60 per cent. of their shells exploded in the village before reaching the fort.

The cannon mounted at San Carlos have not sufficient range to reach the Falke and the Vineta, so the fire from these vessels was not returned, as they kept out of reach of the Venezuelan artillery.

Berlin, Jan. 24.—Commodore Scheder, commander of the German fleet in Venezuelan waters, officially reports the bombardment of Fort San Carlos from Maracaibo under date of January 21 as follows:

"On the 17th inst., while the Panther was passing the Maracaibo bar, she was unexpectedly attacked by Fort San Carlos, which opened a heavy fire on her. To this the Panther replied and a cannonade was exchanged for half an hour. Owing to the difficulties of navigation the Panther then desisted.

"In order to exact an immediate punishment for this attack, the more so as the Venezuelan government had proclaimed it a victory, I bombarded the fort with the Vineta on the 22nd and destroyed it."

Maracaibo, Jan. 24.—At 2 o'clock Friday afternoon Fort San Carlos was in the possession of the government forces and the bombardment by the German warships was still going on.

There has been no material change in the situation. The gunboat Panther was the only vessel to come inside the bar.

Communication with the fort is very difficult. Great excitement prevails in Maracaibo.

**They Draw the Color Line.**  
Washington, Jan. 23.—The nomination of Dr. W. T. Crum, colored, to be collector of the port at Charleston, S. C., was the subject of an hour's hearing yesterday by the senate committee on commerce, before which it is pending. Senator Tillman, Mayor Smith of Charleston, and Col. J. C. Hemphill appeared in opposition to confirmation. They said that Crum had sold out as a delegate to the Minneapolis republican convention. It was made quite plain, however, that the principal opposition was because of Crum's color.

**COAL STRIKE COMMISSION.**

Sessions Enlivened by Some Interesting Testimony—Chairman Gray's Comments—Who is to Blame?  
Philadelphia, Jan. 21.—When the anthracite coal strike commission adjourned yesterday the four hundredth witness summoned before the arbitrators was being examined. Of the four hundred, 174 were called by the striking mine workers, 144 by the non-union men, 63 by the operators and eight by the commission.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22.—The sessions of the coal strike commission yesterday were enlivened up by some interesting testimony. The feature of the sessions was Chairman Gray's strong remarks in commenting on an incident where District President Fahey, of the Miners' union, would not grant "permission" during the strike to erect a boiler house at a colliery, which was necessary to preserve the mine from damage. The president of the commission said he hated tyranny, no matter whether it was practiced by an operator, a miner or any one else.

The Lehigh Valley Coal Co. placed a union miner on the stand to testify about what seemed a trivial matter and on cross-examination he proved a good witness for the miners. He said there would be trouble in the anthracite regions as long as the coal companies insist upon paying the contract miners by the car instead of by weight. This opened a discussion between counsel for both sides and the commissioners which consumed much time.

R. S. Mercur, a district superintendent of the Lehigh Valley collieries in the Mahanoy and Shamokin districts, gave some interesting testimony which lived the proceedings considerably. The men in his collieries worked on an average, he said, of about seven hours a day. The miners, he continued, did not produce any more coal as a result of President Mitchell's "hurry up" order. They claim there is no coal shortage, and that it was a scheme of the operators to show the men are earning larger wages.

Philadelphia, Jan. 23.—The question of who is responsible for the apparent shortage in the supply of anthracite coal was the subject of considerable debate Thursday by the attorneys representing the parties before the strike commission. It was testified that the miners are not obeying President Mitchell's request to make extra efforts to produce more coal to relieve the situation. This was followed up by James H. Torrey and Everett Warren, both of Scranton, who represent several of the large companies, challenging the correctness of Mr. Mitchell's statement that 3,000 men are idle and ready to go to work.

C. S. Darrow, for the miners, replied that he would show that it was the operators and not the men who were responsible for the shortage in the production. "If I don't," he said, "I will ask the commission to find against us."

The Lehigh Valley Coal Co. closed its case and the Lehigh and Wilkes-barre Co. consumed a few hours in presenting its evidence.

It is expected the hearings will last ten more days.

Philadelphia, Jan. 24.—The independent operators of the Wyoming and Lackawanna regions, in which Scranton and Wilkesbarre are located occupied the time of Friday's session of the coal strike commission. A dozen witnesses were heard. Nothing of importance was elicited.

**DUN'S TRADE REVIEW.**

**Slow Movement of Freight Is a Very Embarrassing Feature.**  
New York, Jan. 24.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: Heavy transactions in merchandise are reported, but there is much complaint regarding the slow movement of freight. The situation as to general lines is aggravated by the precedence given fuel over all other freight except live stock and perishable goods. Notwithstanding the extensive increase in transporting facilities during the past year, some roads have been compelled to decline consignments, and in many cases where a large number of cars were desired, only one was provided. Earnings thus far available for January surpass last year's by 5 per cent. It is conspicuous in practically every section of the country that, despite high prices, buying is liberal and of the better qualities of goods, while dealings as a rule are on more of a cash basis.

Firmness has characterized the course of the leading staples, an abundant demand being in evidence while available supplies are restricted by traffic conditions.

Failures for the week numbered 265 in the United States against 301 last year, and 27 in Canada, compared with 28 a year ago.

**Three Lives Lost During a Fire.**  
New York, Jan. 24.—Three women were killed and five women and one man severely injured, in a panic in Leopold Miller & Son's cigar factory on Crosby street Friday, as a result of a fire in an adjoining building. The flames from the burning building beat again the walls of the cigar factory, causing a panic among the 500 men, women and boys at work. There was a wild rush for the fire escapes in which the weaker were crushed and trampled by the stronger.

**A \$15,000,000 Brick Combine.**  
Pittsburg, Jan. 23.—A combine of all the manufacturers of fire brick who are outside the Harbison-Walker combine has been arranged with a capital of \$15,000,000. The purpose of the company is to buy the plants outright and to operate them as one concern, with Pittsburg as the headquarters. The output of the plants is 25,250,000 brick yearly. Not the least valuable part of the property taken over by the new company will be the large area of fire clay and loam now owned by the individual companies.

**THE CANAL TREATY**

Secretary Hay Presents a Signed Draft of It to the President.

**United States Will Pay Colombia \$250,000 a Year, and a Cash Payment of \$10,000,000, for Right of Way—Lease Is Practically Perpetual.**

Washington, Jan. 24.—Friday's meeting of the cabinet was one of the most important held in several weeks. Subjects of great moment were discussed. Secretary Hay presented a draft of the Panama canal treaty signed Thursday and both the president and his associates in the cabinet expressed satisfaction with the results achieved.

The treaty is identical with that drawn by this government several months ago, and at that time submitted to the Colombian government, with the single exception of the amount of annuity to be paid Colombia for the right of way of the canal. This government proposed an annuity of \$100,000, while Colombia demanded \$650,000. The Colombian government's demand was based upon the ascertained returns from the Panama Railroad Co. in port dues, etc., which Colombia did not desire to have reduced.

During the several months of negotiations Colombia agreed to all points in the treaty proposed by the United States with the exception of the annuity. That has been the point of difference for many weeks and at one time it threatened to break off negotiations entirely. Secretary Hay communicated with the Colombian government, intimating that some agreement must be reached soon, as the United States desired to enter on the construction of a canal, even if it were to be constructed by the Panama route.

On Thursday the Colombian government, through Mr. Herran, the charge d'affaires here, agreed to accept an annuity of \$250,000. This was satisfactory to the president and secretary Hay and while it is a larger amount than was offered at first, it is believed that the senate will accept the figure named in the treaty, particularly after it is made clear that a lesser amount would deprive Colombia of income which she is now actually receiving.

The treaty was transmitted to the senate yesterday and referred to the committee on foreign relations.

By the terms of the treaty the United States agrees to make a cash payment of \$10,000,000 in gold to the Colombian government and after the expiration of nine years to pay a rental of \$250,000 per year.

The lease of the strip of land to be used for the canal and for canal purposes is practically made perpetual, the provision on this point being that the first lease shall be for 100 years, and renewable thereafter in terms of 100 years at the pleasure of the United States. The strip is to be about six miles in width, and over this the United States is given police and sanitary jurisdiction, although it is explicitly specified that Colombia does not surrender sovereignty over it.

The Venezuelan situation was discussed at length by the cabinet, but no change in the attitude of the United States is in contemplation at this time. This government will continue its policy of "sitting tight." The bombardment by the German warships of Fort San Carlos is regretted by officials of the administration because of their apprehension that it may complicate the pending negotiations between Minister Bowen, as the representative of Venezuela, and the representatives of the powers. However, while the administration regards the bombardment as unwarranted, the United States has no intention of taking official cognizance of it.

**MURDER AND SUICIDE.**

**A Chicagoan Kills His Housekeeper and Cuts His Own Throat.**  
Chicago, Jan. 24.—Mrs. Stella Wright, a young woman acting as housekeeper for William F. Lewis, a carpenter living at 449 State street, was killed yesterday by Lewis. The crime, the cause of which is not known, was committed with a hatchet, the head of the woman being cut open. As soon as the killing was reported to the police they commenced a search for Lewis, who had disappeared. No trace was found of him until last night, when he appeared at his home, where three officers were on guard. He was placed under arrest after a desperate fight.

While on the way to the police station he requested one of the officers, who was holding his hand, to loosen his grasp a little, and as soon as the officer complied Lewis snatched a razor from his pocket and cut his own throat. At midnight he was alive, but there is no chance of his recovery. Both before and after cutting his throat he admitted that he had killed the woman.

**Two Men Killed in a Tunnel.**  
Pittsburg, Jan. 24.—Two men were killed and four seriously injured Friday in the eastern end of the Wabash tunnel, South Side, by an explosion of dynamite, due, it is said, to some one turning on the electric current without receiving the proper signal.

**An Important Discovery.**  
Philadelphia, Jan. 24.—Dr. Leonard Pearson, dean of the veterinary department of the University of Pennsylvania, announced yesterday that experiments covering a period of more than two years had proven conclusively that cattle may be rendered immune from tuberculosis by vaccination. The experiments, Dr. Pearson stated, were conducted by Dr. S. H. Gilliland and himself. The vaccination consisted of injecting into the vein of the animal a small quantity of a suspension of tubercule bacilli non-virulent for cattle.

**Rebels Were Badly Whipped.**  
Caracas, Jan. 22.—The revolutionary force under Gen. Riera, which attacked Coro, Monday, was obliged to retreat, leaving 60 men killed and 115 wounded behind, as well as many prisoners and a lot of ammunition.

**Marconi's Statement.**  
New York, Jan. 24.—Marconi arrived here Friday. He said that his system would be ready for commercial use by the public in an exceedingly short time, within two or three months at the latest.

**Will Spend \$25,000,000.**  
New York, Jan. 22.—The presidents of subsidiary companies comprising the United States Steel Corporation are holding sessions in this city and will probably not adjourn until the end of this week. More than ordinary importance is supposed to attach to these meetings because they are the first to be held since the corporation announced its profit sharing scheme. Plans involving an outlay of at least \$25,000,000 are being formulated by the presidents. The money will be used in modernizing certain plants and concentrating work.

**BIBERY INQUIRY.**

Congressman Lessler Tells His Story to the Investigators.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The house committee on naval affairs yesterday began the investigation authorized by the house on the charge made by Representative Lessler, of New York, that he had been approached with an offer of money for his vote in favor of construction of submarine torpedo boats. Representative Lessler was the first witness and his examination occupied a great portion of the session.

Mr. Lessler identified Philip Doblin and told of a conversation he had had with him.

Mr. Lessler said Mr. Doblin came to him and asked if the Holland submarine torpedo boat proposition would again come before the house. "I said I suppose so. He asked if I was still opposed to it, and I said I was."

Mr. Lessler testified that Mr. Doblin said he had been sent for by Mr. Quigg and Mr. Quigg had told him there was \$5,000 in it if he (Lessler) could be brought to the other side.

Mr. Lessler said he said there must be no further talk on that proposition. Mr. Lessler then said that Doblin suggested that Mr. Quigg was a man of influence and "that if I wanted to come back here I would be aiding myself by doing him this favor."

Mr. Lessler then told of a conversation that he had with Mr. Quigg in New York.

Mr. Leumel E. Quigg made the following statement last night with reference to the testimony given by Representative Lessler:

"I have no interest whatsoever, and never have had an interest in the Holland torpedo boat or in any of the companies organized to promote it. Nor am I, nor was I ever, in any way interested in legislation in their behalf."

Mr. Quigg also denied the statements made concerning Doblin so far as they associated him (Quigg) with offers of money.

**FOUR WERE KILLED.**

**A Ship Is Driven Ashore and Wrecked Near Atlantic City.**  
Atlantic City, N. J., Jan. 22.—The bark Abiel Abbott, from Turk's island for New York, went aground near Ship Bottom Light Tuesday night and is going to pieces. Five of her crew of nine men were picked up by the life savers, but it is believed the other four were killed by falling wreckage.

One of the men of the Abbott died of exposure in the Ship Bottom station. The other four are unconscious and their conditions critical.

The Abbott struck about 10 o'clock Tuesday night. At that time there was a driving southeaster and tremendous seas were running. The life savers launched the life boat and started to the rescue. After battling with the heavy seas for three hours and getting near enough to distinguish several men clinging to the rigging, they were forced to abandon the attempt at rescue and await day-break.

When the life savers reached the Abbott in the morning, it was found that she was dismantled and there was no sign of life on board. After cruising about the wreck for some time they located the Abbott's house, almost dead from exhaustion were five members of the crew. They were quickly taken into the life boat and brought ashore, none able to tell of their terrible sufferings.

**THRILLING EXPERIENCE.**

**The Government Tug Leyden Ran on the Rocks at Block Island, R. I.—Crew Hauled to Shore in Breeches Buoy.**  
Block Island, R. I., Jan. 22.—The United States tug Leyden ran ashore on the south side of this island yesterday and is a total wreck. She is fast going to pieces. Six of her crew left the wrecked tug in a small boat, which was dashed to pieces on the rocks a short distance from the shore. They were rescued by the life savers. The remaining 28 men and Lieut. Chester Wells, the commander, were taken off in the breeches buoy with great difficulty by the New Shoreham life saving crew. Seaman Loyal, who was in the small boat when it was demolished, swam until he was rescued, but he is not expected to live as a result of the injuries he received in the heavy sea.

The life savers sighted the vessel in distress very soon after the accident and to their response the commander and crew came their lives. A heavy southeast swell was running and the surf dashed high over the wrecked craft. She began to go to pieces in less than half an hour after she struck.

**Roberts Were Badly Whipped.**

**Two Men Killed in a Tunnel.**

**An Important Discovery.**