

PUERTO CABELLO IS BOMBARDED

State Department Receives Dispatch From Bowen Verifying Reports of Hostilities.

CHARYBDIS AND VINETA IN THE ENGAGEMENT

The English Commodore sends a demand to authorities for satisfaction for having pulled down the British flag from the merchant steamer Topaze—While a reply to a message sent to President Castro for instructions is awaited, fire is opened upon the fortress and custom house at Puerto Cabello. Fortress replies, but is soon silenced—The situation much more quiet at Caracas, the Venezuelan capital.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 14.—Minister Bowen, in a dispatch received by the state department this afternoon, cables that he has been informed by President Castro that British and German warships were bombarding Puerto Cabello. In an earlier dispatch received by the state department on Sunday morning, Minister Bowen said that the situation at the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, was much quieter. The great excitement noted at the outset of the affair, was caused by the precipitate flight of the British and German ministers, the arrest of all the subjects of those two nations and the seizure of the Venezuelan gunboats without first declaring a blockade, thus causing the people to fear a bombardment would follow at once.

Bombardment of Puerto Cabello.
Puerto Cabello, Saturday, Dec. 13.—The British cruiser Charybdis and the German cruiser Vineta, have bombarded the fortress here. They quickly silenced it. The Charybdis and Vineta arrived here this morning. The captain of the English merchant steamer Topaze, which was seized by the British and German warships, visited the English commodore on board the Charybdis and returned an hour later with a detachment of fifty marines, who took charge of the Topaze. The populace is greatly excited at this incident and the cry "to arms" but no incident occurred. The English commodore then sent a demand to the authorities for immediate satisfaction for having pulled down the British flag from the Topaze and advised the government that if satisfaction was not forthcoming in two hours the fortress and the custom house would be bombarded. The authorities on the receipt of this demand sent a message to President Castro asking for instructions.

At 5 o'clock the Charybdis and Vineta opened fire on the fortress and custom house. The fortress replied but was soon silenced. No damage was done to the town. The United States consul went on board the two cruisers and was informed by their commanders that they had come to this port in search of the Venezuelan warships. The entrance to the inside harbor at Puerto Cabello is through a narrow channel not more than a few hundred feet wide. To the left of this channel is one enters the harbor, situated on a low sand spit, is the fortress which was bombarded by the German and British cruisers. It is an old fashioned structure, which was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. Its defenses are comparatively low and would offer but poor resistance to modern shells. It is not probable that the Venezuelan government had any cannon there. The customs house is situated on the right, and contains a large warehouse. Steamers discharging at Puerto Cabello tie up immediately in front of the custom house. The town itself is situated on a hillside from the water front inland two or three miles, a distance of two or three miles.

The outside harbor at Puerto Cabello is hardly more than a large bay, offering comparatively little protection to shipping. The inside harbor is very secure and quite commodious.

Note from Commanders.
Caracas, Saturday, Dec. 13.—A note from the commanders of the allied Anglo-German fleet, which the Venezuelan government refused to receive yesterday at La Guayra, was sent today to United States Minister Bowen in Caracas and forwarded by him to the proper government official here. The note is in the name of Great Britain and Germany; it requests all Venezuelan ships, after the lapse of five days, to refrain from sailing from the port of La Guayra until the present difficulties are over.

The question what right Great Britain and Germany have to coerce Venezuela without declaring a blockade is being asked on all sides here. The British and German consuls and certain other revolutionary leaders left Caracas today for Curacao on their way to Curacao. Hernandez is probably the most popular of the revolutionary leaders. President Castro has kept him imprisoned at Maracaibo for several years past.

The news of the shelling of the fortress and custom houses at Puerto Cabello this afternoon by the British cruiser Charybdis and German cruiser Vineta, reached Caracas at a late hour tonight. It caused considerable excitement.

BLOCKADE AT LA GUAYRA.

The Venezuelan Government Declines the Offer of a Loan.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, Dec. 15.—In a dispatch from Willemstad, Curacao, dated Dec. 14, the correspondent of the Daily Mail says the Anglo-German warships are blockading La Guayra. The steamer Yucatan was warned by the British cruiser Indefatigable not to enter La Guayra and returned to Curacao.

The Venezuelan government has declined the offer of a loan, made by a German banker at Caracas, to settle the claims against it.

WARNING TO BLOCKADERS

United States Does Not Give Consent to Any Extension of Rights.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 14.—Aside from dispatches from Minister Bowen, there were no important developments in the Venezuelan situation, so far as the state department is concerned. The officials are watching events with keen interest, so as to be able to act promptly should such a step become necessary, but nothing was done today except to make some representations in the matter of the peaceful blockade now being enforced by those governments in Venezuelan waters. Secretary Hay took the dispatches from Minister Bowen over to the white house during the day, and discussed the situation in Venezuela for some time with the president, but he had nothing to make public on the subject.

In the matter of the blockade, the secretary has instructed our ambassadors at Berlin and London to represent to those governments that the United States must not be understood as giving its consent to any extension of the international right of peaceful blockade. It is not known that this instruction was called forth by any incident making such representation necessary. It was made simply as a cautionary measure and gives the attitude of this government should any development arise making its position a matter of importance.

It was confidently hoped that by this time some answer would have been received from the German and British governments to President Castro's request that the claims of these governments be submitted to arbitration. This request was transmitted from Caracas by Minister Bowen during the latter days of last week, and in turn was handed to the embassies of Germany and Great Britain at this capital. Secretary Hay up to this time has not received any reply.

The visit of President Castro to the bedside of the invalid wife of the German diplomatic representative at Caracas created a good impression here, as it did at the other Venezuelan cities. The town itself is in a comparatively quiet and peaceful manner.

BRITISH LEGATION AT CARACAS RE-OPENED

W. W. Russell, Secretary of American Legation in Charge—Minister Bowen Shelters Germans.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Caracas, Saturday, Dec. 13.—The British legation here will be re-opened tonight under the American flag by W. W. Russell, secretary of the American legation.

The statement that Italy, through her legation here is to demand payment of her claims against Venezuela, has been confirmed. The arrival of the United States gunboat Marietta at La Guayra yesterday was due to a rumor that United States Minister Bowen was in danger. There has been no ground for such a rumor and the presence of the Marietta was not required by Mr. Bowen.

The situation at Caracas continues to be critical and there is intense excitement among the German residents of the city. To-day the Germans sought refuge at the American legation where they will be sheltered. Mr. Bowen has gotten in quantities of all kinds of provisions to be prepared for any emergency.

The enlistment of Venezuelan soldiers continues; 2,000 men from the environs of Caracas and Valencia came into this city today. The boycotting of British and German goods continues. The British and German colleges here which were boycotted, have closed their doors. The university of Caracas also is closed. Priests are preaching for war. It is reported that ninety Germans living in the country have offered to support the Venezuelan government against Germany.

Leading German and British residents of Caracas are very bitter against their respective ministers, whom they accuse of leaving Caracas without giving any intimation of their intention to abandon the city.

WILL RUSH ARMY BILL

Senator Proctor Will Ask the Senate to Take Up Measure For Militia Re-Organization.

THE STATEHOOD BILL DOWN FOR DISCUSSION

Senator Dillingham Will Address the Senate in Opposition to the Admission of New Mexico and Arizona—In Case Opportunity Offers Senator Penrose Will Make an Effort to Get Up the Immigration Bill at Odd Times During the Week—An Uneventful Week in the House—Holiday Adjournment on Saturday Next.

THE CLAIMS OF ITALY.

Are for Damages Sustained by Italian Subjects in 1898.

DEWEY'S SQUADRON IS NOW READY

The Final Preparations for Greatest Naval War Game—Details of Fleet Organization.

THE QUEEN'S GIFT.

Alexandra to Give a Dinner to All Widows and Children in London of Victims of the Boer War.

TUCKER DECLARED GUILTY.

Convicted of Violating the Primary Election Laws.

High Water in Pittsburgh.

High Rates for Coal Tonnage.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

GREATER TO BE HANGED FEBRUARY 24.

MISSOURI RIVER VAGARIES.

Interstate Dispute Caused by Change of Channel in 1866 Now Settled.

MINE WORKERS CANDIDATES

Secretary Wilson Sends Out Lists for the Coming Election of Officers.

GAS EXPLODES IN TUNNEL

Two Men Killed, Two Fatally Injured and a Number Seriously Hurt.

THE TRANS-PACIFIC CABLE CHRISTENED

Lucille Gage, Daughter of the Governor of California, Breaks a Bottle of Champagne.

FIVE KILLED IN A WRECK.

Half a Dozen Others Injured—All Were on a Wrecking Train Which Went Through a Bridge.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS.

GREATER TO BE HANGED FEBRUARY 24.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.

WEATHER FORECAST.

MINERS' CASE WILL LIKELY END TODAY

MRS. U. S. GRANT DEAD.

Attorneys for the Operators' Side Are Preparing to Present Testimony Tomorrow.

FLURRY OVER ANOTHER THREATENED STRIKE

Coke Bros. & Co.'s Employees Discontented Over Alleged Failure of the Company to Live Up to the Agreement Under Which the Big Strike Was Brought to an End—Commission Likely to Continue in Session All Week and Adjourn on Saturday Over the Holidays—Wage Statistics of the Scranton Coal Company.

The miners will close the presentation of direct testimony to the mine strike commission today, and tomorrow the operators will open their case. Among the final witnesses for the miners' side will be a large number of girls from the silk mills and other industries here and in Wilkes-Barre, who will be put on the stand to show that because of the poor wages paid by the coal companies to their fathers and brothers they are forced to go to work at an early age to help support the family. The district presidents are not to be called as witnesses.

The programme of the companies has not as yet been definitely decided upon, further than that some one attorney—possibly Simon P. Winters—will make the opening statement for all the respondents. It was intended that the Delaware and Hudson company would present its case first, but the illness of David Wilcox, general counsel of the company, may cause a change in this arrangement. A decision will be agreed upon at a meeting of the companies' attorneys to be held in the Jersey tonight.

Threaten to Strike.

Some little commotion is being caused in commission circles by the news from Drifton that the 2,300 employees of Coke Bros. & Co. are threatening to go out on strike again. This company did not effect a settlement with its men until a month after the employees of the big companies returned to work. Its men refused to go back when it was learned that the company had 400 of the old employees on the "waiting list." After a number of conferences, it was agreed that the men should return to work under promise from the company that all old employees would be reinstated except those officially charged with violence during the strike, or who had been supplanted by the introduction of machinery, such as patent slate pickers at the Del Rio.

The men claim that the company is not making a just effort to live up to its agreement, and it is said, are anxious for the men to strike to enforce the terms of the agreement.

District President Thomas Duffy and National Board Member Peter Gallagher, will meet with the Coke Bros. & Co. men Wednesday at Drifton. President Duffy said last night that he is not satisfied well acquainted with the details to speak on the likely outcome of other than that they are to be able to get away from here tomorrow, and to have a conference with the men Wednesday.

Should there be a cessation of work at these collieries now, it would greatly retard the work of controlling the coal mine, as the Coke Bros. & Co. collieries have an output of 1,000,000 tons of coal a year.

Saturday's Sessions.

Two sessions of the commission were held Saturday. Most of the time was taken up with testimony regarding conditions at the Philadelphia and Reading collieries. These witnesses had little to complain of other than that they are not being taken back. There were some allegations of local injustices, but on the whole, the witnesses all agreed the company treats its men fairly.

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The statements show that during the year ending April 30, 1902, the company operated nine collieries. Two worked only eleven months on account of fire and flooding and one but eleven and a half months on account of the strike.

The average earnings of miners per year were \$538.99 and of mine laborers \$317.75. Average per breaker, day of

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There also were present at the bedside, when the end came: Miss Rosemary Sartoris, a granddaughter; Dr. Elshop, one of the attending physicians, and the two trained nurses. Death came peacefully, the sufferer retaining almost complete consciousness practically to the end. Jesse and Ulysses S. Grant, two of the sons, now in California, have started on their way to Washington. The other son, General Fred Grant, is in Texas, and will hasten here at once. The remains of Mrs. Grant will be deposited in the tomb at Riverside park, New York, where those of her husband now repose. Whether they will be taken immediately, or this ceremony be postponed for a time could not be ascertained at the house tonight.

Mrs. Grant, whose maiden name was Julia Dent, was born in St. Louis in 1826, and was a daughter of Frederick and Ellen Wrenshall Dent. She was married to General (then captain) Grant in 1846. During the Civil war Mrs. Grant was with the general much of the time and remained as near as possible to him when he was campaigning. She saw her husband twice inaugurated as president, and accompanied him on his journey around the world.

The list of candidates for positions to be voted on by the locals is given below. The candidate's standing in the list is determined by the number of nominations each received.

President—John Mitchell, Spring Valley, Pa.

Vice-president—T. L. Lewis, Bridgeport, O., and T. D. Nichols, Scranton, Pa.

Auditor and Credentials Committee (three to be chosen)—McTaggart, Barnesboro, Pa.; John J. Mossop, North Lawrence, O.; Patrick Fitzgerald, Scranton, Pa.; Joseph Pope, Bellefonte, Pa.; Reese Bennett, Wyoming, Pa.; Lawrence Love, Hooking, Pa.; Albert Neuhell, Glen Carbon, Ill.; Steven Corven, West Bay City, Mich.; J. C. Homman, Linton, Ind.; Alex. J. Little, Scranton, Pa.; Ed. O'Connell, Bellefonte, Pa.; and James Richards, Sarnovell, Ill.

Delegates to American Federation of Labor (seven to be chosen)—John Mitchell, Spring Valley, Ill.; W. R. Wilson, Blossburg, Pa.; W. D. Ryan, Springfield, Ill.; T. L. Lewis, Bridgeport, O.; John Faby, Shamokin, Pa.; W. H. Haskins, Columbia, O.; W. R. Fairley, Pratt City, Ala.; G. W. Purcell, Terre Haute, Ind.; John E. Ream, Becon, Ia.; William Dudd, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Edward H. Kane, Versailles, Pa.; Dec. V. Whitwell, Tenn.; Paul E. Sullivan, Coshott, O.; John T. Dempsey, Scranton, Pa.; J. H. Kennedy, Terre Haute, Ind.; G. W. Savage, Columbia, O.; Harry Wright, Perth, Ind.; Uriah Bellingham, Pittsburgh, Pa.; William L. Bunting, Pa.; Paul E. Putaski, Mount Carmel, Pa.; John Nugent, St. Charles, Mich.; W. F. Williams, Saginaw, Mich.; Chris Evans, Nelsonville, O.; James Mooney, High-bey, Mo.; Barney Rice, DuBois, Pa.; Edward Flynn, Pa. City; Alvin Thomas Haggarty, Reynoldsville, Pa.; Robert Legg, East Greenville, O.; T. H. Pickett, Canton, Ill.; Adam Rascau, Carbon, Pa.; James Cantwell, Plymouth, Pa.; George Bagwell, Muncy, Pa.; J. W. Davis, Keosauqua, W. Va.; M. L. Hampton, Monticello, W. Va.; D. C. Kennedy, Sewell, W. Va.; Lawrence Love, Hooking, Ill.; M. C. Perry, Spring Valley, Ill.; Percy Tettlow, Washington, O.; J. D. Wood, Central City, Ky.; M. S. Enot, Coal Creek, Tenn.; Charles P. Gibson, Coaldale, Pa.

The prospects are for an uneventful week in the house. Tomorrow is Christmas day, and the bill of security for the holidays, and the bill of friends of the bill express confidence of action on the measure before that time.

In case opportunity offers, Senator Penrose will make an effort to get up the immigration bill at odd times during the week, with the hope of securing action on it, but the prospect now is that it will go over until after the Christmas adjournment. In all probability the bill making an appropriation for the prosecution of the agricultural department's fight on the foot and mouth cattle disease in New England will be passed during the week.

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Delegates to American Federation of Labor (seven to be chosen)—John Mitchell, Spring Valley, Ill.; W. R. Wilson, Blossburg, Pa.; W. D. Ryan, Springfield, Ill.; T. L. Lewis, Bridgeport, O.; John Faby, Shamokin, Pa.; W. H. Haskins, Columbia, O.; W. R. Fairley, Pratt City, Ala.; G. W. Purcell, Terre Haute, Ind.; John E. Ream, Becon, Ia.; William Dudd, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Edward H. Kane, Versailles, Pa.; Dec. V. Whitwell, Tenn.; Paul E. Sullivan, Coshott, O.; John T. Dempsey, Scranton, Pa.; J. H. Kennedy, Terre Haute, Ind.; G. W. Savage, Columbia, O.; Harry Wright, Perth, Ind.; Uriah Bellingham, Pittsburgh, Pa.; William L. Bunting, Pa.; Paul E. Putaski, Mount Carmel, Pa.; John Nugent, St. Charles, Mich.; W. F. Williams, Saginaw, Mich.; Chris Evans, Nelsonville, O.; James Mooney, High-bey, Mo.; Barney Rice, DuBois, Pa.; Edward Flynn, Pa. City; Alvin Thomas Haggarty, Reynoldsville, Pa.; Robert Legg, East Greenville, O.; T. H. Pickett, Canton, Ill.; Adam Rascau, Carbon, Pa.; James Cantwell, Plymouth, Pa.; George Bagwell, Muncy, Pa.; J. W. Davis, Keosauqua, W. Va.; M. L. Hampton, Monticello, W. Va.; D. C. Kennedy, Sewell, W. Va.; Lawrence Love, Hooking, Ill.; M. C. Perry, Spring Valley, Ill.; Percy Tettlow, Washington, O.; J. D. Wood, Central City, Ky.; M. S. Enot, Coal Creek, Tenn.; Charles P. Gibson, Coaldale, Pa.

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In case opportunity offers, Senator Penrose will make an effort to get up the immigration bill at odd times during the week, with the hope of securing action on it, but the prospect now is that it will go over until after the Christmas adjournment. In all probability the bill making an appropriation for the prosecution of the agricultural department's fight on the foot and mouth cattle disease in New England will be passed during the week.

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