

OPENING OF THE OPERATORS' CASE

Joint Statements by Both Big Companies and Independents Outlining Their Contentions.

RECOGNITION IS AGAIN DISCUSSED

Operators Aver It Is Not at Issue and Miners Maintain That It Is. Commission Again Declines to Decide the Matter—Companies' Wage Statistics Attacked—Judge Gray Delivers Himself of Some Caustic Comments on Carrying the Sympathy Game Too Far—Factory Inspector and Mine Inspectors Examined at Length—Non-Union Men's Witnesses Now Being Heard.

The operators opened their case yesterday afternoon. Statements outlining their position and what they propose to prove were read by Hon. Winston E. Walton, of counsel for the Reading company, representing all the big companies, and by Ira H. Burns, of counsel for the independent operators of the Lackawanna and Wyoming regions, representing all the independent operators.

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TO ENFORCE ANTI-TRUST MEASURE

Mr. Bartlett's Amendment to Appropriation Bill Meets with No Opposition.

A SUM OF \$500,000 TO BE USED IN THE WORK

The Amendment Agreed to Without a Dissenting Vote—Senate Enacts the Pension Bill Without Discussion—The Urgent Deficiency Bill Also Passed—An Item of \$500,000 to Enable Secretary of Agriculture to Stamp Out Foot and Mouth Disease.

The amendment to the pension appropriation bill, which carries \$137,847,000, was passed today without discussion. It carries \$137,847,000. An urgent deficiency bill also was passed. The amount carried by this bill is \$1,140,000, and includes an item of \$500,000 to enable the secretary of agriculture to stamp out the foot and mouth disease, which has become epidemic in the New England states.

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AMERICAN SHIPS SENT TO CARACAS

Admiral Dewey Is Instructed to Dispatch at Once War Vessels to Aid Minister Bowen.

PRECAUTIONS TAKEN TO GUARD THE CABLE

A Torpedo Boat Destroyer or Other Vessel Ordered to Caracas—Executive Officer Van Duzen, of the Marietta, Has Been Appointed Temporary Assistant to Minister Bowen—Italian Minister Leaves Caracas.

The following cablegram was sent today by the navy department to Admiral Dewey in command of the combined fleets, addressed to San Juan: "Send competent officer with dispatch in torpedo boat destroyer or other vessel to Caracas as assistant to American minister."

The following cablegram was also sent to Commander Diehl, of the Marietta, now lying at La Guayra: "Send Van Duzen executive officer of the Marietta as assistant to the American minister temporarily."

The officer from Dewey's fleet will relieve Lieutenant Commander Van Duzen, who is only an hour distant from Caracas, when he arrives upon the scene. While no explanation is given for the above orders it is believed that these measures are being taken to guard against an interruption in the cable connecting Mr. Bowen with his home government.

It was stated at the navy department that one reason for sending the officers to Caracas was the fact that Mr. Bowen is almost overwhelmed with the amount of work imposed upon him by his many charges. He has nearly all of the English residents in Caracas domiciled in the American legation and is feeding them from his own table. As for the torpedo boat destroyer, it is pointed out that it will serve as a dispatch boat to keep Mr. Bowen in touch with the nearest cable station to La Guayra, which can be relied upon to transmit messages to Washington in case the La Guayra cable is cut as an incident to the blockade.

No further orders than that noted above went forward to Dewey today. Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 17.—The Italian minister left Caracas this morning. At 8 o'clock United States Minister Bowen went to the Italian legation in a state carriage, accompanied by Secretary Russell, and took the Italian minister, Signor de Riva, and the Italian consul, Signor Gaszzerelli, and conducted them to the railroad station, where they were met by the leading Italian residents of this city. Mr. Bowen then accompanied the minister to his car, shook hands with him, and handed him papers and cigars for his journey to La Guayra.

The Venezuelan newspapers are still ignorant of the fact that the Italian minister presented an ultimatum to the Venezuelan government yesterday afternoon and therefore there were no crowds at the railroad station and no hostile demonstration. The state department has received no response thus far to the messages sent to the European foreign offices relative to the arbitration proposition. It is not known here whether President Castro will consent to apologize as a condition precedent to arbitration, but it is hoped that Minister Bowen can induce him to do so, if this will be sufficient to meet the demands of the allies. It is pointed out here, however, that the further presentation of attacks on Venezuela will make an adjustment just that much more difficult. If apologies are tendered and accepted, then the critical phase of the situation will be removed and some time may be spent in an arrangement of the basis upon which the arbitration should be conducted. This will be a difficult problem, for it is anticipated that the allies will base their acceptance of the arbitration upon an agreement of Venezuela to instruct the arbiters to accept certain principles in advance, which would commit Venezuela to a recognition of indebtedness of about \$100,000,000, still the state department is hopeful that arbitration will prevail, for the alternative is now realized to be the actual war between the allies and Venezuela. It is believed here that Germany, at least, is not anxious to enter upon this state. A declaration of war which once clothe the Venezuelians with the full rights of belligerency, and this might greatly protract the efforts

VENEZUELA MAY YIELD.

Citizens of Caracas Address a Note to Castro, Asking That Powers Be Given the United States.

This note was transmitted to President Castro at 1 o'clock this afternoon. It is signed by all the leading merchants, bankers, and agriculturists of Caracas. It reflects truly the consensus of current opinion among the business element of this city. The men who signed the note will meet again tonight to discuss ways and means of obtaining money with which Venezuela can meet her obligations, as well as to consider what it will be possible to offer to her creditors.

The note is as follows: "To the President of the United States of Venezuela: "Sir:—The undersigned, having met with the purpose of offering their aid to the government of Venezuela in the present conflicting situation, which has been created by the aggression of Great Britain, and upon your request to give our opinions in writing, we address you in the following terms: "In view of the acts of violence already committed and of absolute impotence of Venezuela to meet force with force in response to the allied action, Germany and Great Britain, in view of the fact that Venezuela has exhausted all the means required by civilization and diplomacy to put an end to the conflict, we deem it our duty to advise you that the moment has come when Venezuela must yield to force."

"We, therefore, respectfully recommend that the powers be given to the minister of the United States of North America, authorizing him to carry out proper measures to terminate the present conflict in the manner most judicious to the interests of Venezuela." "The note is signed by about 200 prominent citizens of Caracas."

VENEZUELA'S RESOURCES. The Country Can Raise an Army of 400,000 Men for Service. In Caracas, Dec. 17.—M. Tissera, formerly minister of Finance to Venezuela, who negotiated the convention of 1885 and who has lived many years in Venezuela, has been interviewed concerning the situation here. He said: "Venezuela can put 400,000 men in the field, and even foreigners there are liable for military service. The regular Venezuelan army numbers only 10,000 men. A number of the younger officers received their education in the military schools of France and Germany. The Venezuelians are armed with Martini and Remington rifles and have a few Maxim and Krupp guns. They have no cavalry. Caracas is almost impregnable, owing to the fact that it is situated on the other side of a mountain range, about 6,000 feet high. These mountains are impassable, except by steep mule paths, where twenty men could stop a whole regiment. There is a railway from La Guayra to Caracas, but the destruction of a single bridge would render the line useless. If, by a miracle, Caracas was taken, the Venezuelians would wage a guerrilla warfare, as they did against Spain."

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER. Local data for Dec. 17, 1902: Highest temperature, 36 degrees; lowest temperature, 30 degrees; relative humidity, 87 percent; wind, S. by E., 5 to 7 p. m.; precipitation, 24 hours ended 8 p. m., trace.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, Dec. 17.—Forecast for Thursday and Friday: Eastern Pennsylvania—Fair Thursday; fresh with light winds, Friday, fair.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS. New York, Dec. 17.—Arrived: Steamer Bluebird, Hamburg. Cleared: Steamer La Touraine, Havre. Sailed: Steamers Oceanic, Liverpool; St. Paul, Southampton. Queenstown—Arrived, Steamer Teutonic, New York. Naples—Arrived, Steamer Lavin, New York. Gibraltar—Passed, Steamer Phoenix, New York, for Naples and Genoa. Liverpool—Sailed, Steamer Celtic, New York.

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