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FIERCE NAVAL FIGHT. Government and Insurgents' Warships Engaged.

General Carlos Alban, Governor of Panama, Killed in the Engagement. Reported that the Government Vessel Was Deserted by the Crew. News Confirmed from Washington.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The secretary of the navy has received the following cablegram from Capt. Mead, commander of the United States cruiser Philadelphia, dated Panama yesterday.

"The insurgent steamer Padilla attacked the Lautaro yesterday morning at close quarters. Crew was deserted her. Is now on fire and sinking."

Panama, Jan. 21.—Gen. Carlos Alban, the military commander of this district and the governor of Panama, was killed during the fighting yesterday morning. His death is deeply deplored, for Gen. Alban was loved by his soldiers and enjoyed the esteem of the community.

It is asserted that the death of the Colombian leader may have the effect of bringing to the government side large numbers of men anxious to avenge his loss.

Some of the men killed on board the government ship Lautaro have been brought ashore, where they are being buried.

Later.—The Lautaro has just sunk. It is reported here that her crew rebelled.

The revolutionary gunboat Padilla surprised the Lautaro at the opening of the fight and began shooting at close range. Many men on board the Lautaro were killed.

A gasoline launch has just left here to obtain details of the fighting. The slow movements of the Padilla, which are noticeable from the shore, lead to the belief that she has been damaged.

News in Official Circles. Washington, Jan. 21.—No word has yet been received at the Colombian legation touching the reported naval battle between the government ships and the revolutionary fleet off Panama.

Dr. Silva, the Colombian minister here, has been assured by the state department that anything in the nature of a bombardment of either of the Isthmian towns, with its accompanying danger to American interests and interruption to transit, would be prevented by the American naval representation in that quarter.

The legation officials therefore feel sure that in case the revolutionary fleet is victorious in destroying the government vessels the victory will end there.

Captain Mead of the Philadelphia has the same general instructions from Secretary Lutz which governed the actions of Capt. Perry of the battleship Iowa when the Liberals captured Colon, and he will intervene only when American interests or treaty rights are threatened.

Naval Engagement at Panama. New York, Jan. 21.—The Panama Railway Company yesterday received a cablegram from Colon saying that three insurgent and two government vessels had been sunk in the naval engagement in Panama harbor. The cablegram came from Colonel J. B. Shaler, general superintendent at Colon for the Panama Railway Company.

TUNNEL INQUEST. President Newman of the Central Will Be Called on Friday.

New York, Jan. 21.—Edward Fitzgibbons, a locomotive engineer on the New York Harlem road, with whom Wicker was a fireman for about six months, gave it as his belief that Wicker was a perfectly safe and reliable engineer.

Charles Platt, general superintendent of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, said he considered the torpedo more reliable as a danger signal than as a caution signal and he believed it should be used accordingly.

After Mr. Platt had concluded, Mr. Jerome said there probably would be no necessity for calling President Hall. An adjournment was then taken until Friday, when President Newman of the New York Central will be called.

State Named as Trustee. Albany, Jan. 21.—State Treasurer John P. Jaekel yesterday received a check for \$52,000 from the surrogate of Chautauque county. This is the first installment of a trust fund of \$200,000 left by William Vorce of that county for the benefit of the public schools of the state. In his last will he named the state as trustee of the fund. State Treasurer Jaekel is uncertain as to whether the state can accept a trusteeship, and in consequence the check has not been deposited to the credit of the state. The attorney general will be called upon for an opinion.

Trains Delayed. Utica, Jan. 21.—Central trains from the west are delayed from 15 minutes to an hour and a half on account of cold weather. At Clearwater in the Adirondacks it was 18 below zero yesterday morning.

Weather Indications. Western New York—Snow Tuesday, possibly heavy by night, warmer in eastern portion; Wednesday snow and colder; increasing northeasterly to easterly winds Tuesday.

GENERAL CHAFFEE'S REPORT. Municipal and Provincial Governments Are Being Organized.

Manila, Jan. 20.—General Chaffee in the annual report, which has just been issued, sums up the situation from the military point of view by saying that the provinces of Batangas and Laguna, in Southern Luzon, and the islands of Samar, Mindoro and Cebu constitute the disturbed area in which bodies of insurgents in force are to be found.

General Chaffee says the prolongation of guerrilla warfare is due to the physical character of the country and to the nature of warfare carried on by the insurgents who oppose as friends and act as enemies in the same hour; to the humanity displayed by the American troops, of which the insurgents take advantage, and to the rear of assassination that suffered most by the natives who are friendly disposed to the Americans, should they give the latter information concerning the movements of the whereabouts of the insurgents.

Municipal and provincial governments are being organized. These governments have not yet received a practical trial. They constitute the only certain and reliable method of ascertaining the progress of the Filipinos toward self-government.

MURDER IN ROCHESTER. Merchant Gagged and Beaten to Death in His Store.

Rochester, Jan. 20.—Bela E. Brown, aged 65, a prominent dealer in diamonds and manufacturer of jewelry, was found brutally murdered in his store over No. 24 State street at 8:15 o'clock last night. Night Watchman John Raquet while making his accustomed rounds at that time entered the jeweler's salesroom as usual and found Brown dead. His legs were tied together and he was gagged with a long red neck scarf. The body rested on a chair back of a stand or show cases and in front of the safe and was leaning over so that the head rested on a small chest of drawers standing about two and a half feet from the floor. The face was turned toward the wall and the eyes were staring wide open.

Abundant evidence of the brutal murder was seen in the terrible wounds on the head. At the back of the head was a hole extending into the brain and about it were several shaves in the scalp, evidently made by a hammer, which was found near the body smeared with mingled blood and white hairs from the head of the victim. The murdered man's head was covered with blood and a great pool of it had gathered on top of a small chest of drawers over which the head lay. All about were evidences of a fierce struggle but a most thorough search failed to discover any positive clue as to the identity of the murderer or murderers.

MINORITY REPORT. Oppose Bill to Exchange Gold For Silver Dollars.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The Democratic members of the house committee on coinage, weights and measures have agreed on a minority report on the bill directing the secretary of the treasury to exchange gold for legal tender silver dollars, and the report will be presented to the house today by Mr. Shafer.

The report takes the position that the passage of the bill is certain to produce financial disturbances. The following general proposition is laid down:

"Our government has never conceded the right to the holder of silver dollars to demand from the treasury gold therefore nor to the holder of gold to demand silver dollars therefor. Such demands always have been refused at the treasury. It is the notes and bonds of the government that are payable in either gold or silver at the option of the holder."

BUILDINGS COLLAPSE. Business Block in Detroit Completely Demolished.

Detroit, Jan. 20.—Four buildings, each four stories high, located in the heart of the wholesale district of this city, collapsed last night, without any apparent cause, and all that now remains is a smoldering heap of ruins. The buildings were a part of the block bounded by Jefferson avenue and Shelby and Griswold streets, and were occupied by five concerns and their stocks are a total loss which is estimated at \$12,000, exclusive of the loss on the buildings which amount to \$50,500.

After the buildings collapsed the inflammable material caught fire. There was no loss of life.

Eight Mines to Be Opened. Pittsburgh, Jan. 18.—A syndicate of Pittsburgh capitalists have concluded negotiations for 11,000 acres of coal land in the first pool district. The price is said to have been \$8,000,000. Eight mines are to be opened, to have a daily capacity of 12,000 tons, and 1,000,000 houses for the workmen are to be built.

Priest and Converts Murdered. Pekin, Jan. 21.—A French priest named Julien and two Chinese converts have been murdered at a village in the north of Kwang Si province. Chinese officials assert the murders were committed by robbers and were not a result of an anti-Christian demonstration.

Accident to Freight Engine. Utica, Jan. 21.—An accident to a freight engine on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad two miles north of Greene yesterday tore up considerable track and delayed traffic nearly six hours. No one was injured.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE. Earthquake Shock In a Mexican Town.

State Capitol, Parish Church and Many Houses in Ruins—Soldiers Helping in Work of Rescue—Shock Felt in the Capital and Many Other Places.

Mexico City, Jan. 18.—One of the most terrible catastrophes ever recorded in the state of Guerrero is reported to have occurred late Thursday afternoon when an extremely violent earthquake shock was felt at Chilpancingo, causing a great loss of life and injuring many persons.

Details from the stricken district are very meagre, but scattering reports received here indicate that probably 300 persons were killed and as many more injured.

It is known that the state capitol, the parish church and many business houses and residences are in ruins and there is much suffering as a result of the awful shock that suffered most was the federal telegraph office, which explains the paucity of news that has reached this city. Telegraph lines and apparatus were badly damaged, but the employees, all of whom were uninjured, quickly proceeded to erect an improvised telegraph office on the outskirts of the city.

The number of deaths was greater in the parish church than in any single place as the crowd of worshippers were gathered there for the afternoon service. The solid masonry, walled roof, toppled down on the worshippers.

The war department has ordered the troops in the neighborhood to cooperate in the work of rescue. Until this work is completed it will be impossible to learn accurately the number of victims. It is believed that this is one of the most destructive seismic phenomena that has occurred in Mexico. The greater part of the people of Chilpancingo are now camped out under trees around the town, which is five days' journey from the national hospital.

Earthquake shocks were felt in many other cities and towns.

In Mexico City the earthquake took place at 5:17 p. m. and was of such violence as to shake the most substantial buildings. The Pan-American congress was in session at the time and many of the delegates were great-easier oscillatory movements north-northeast to south-southwest. The duration was 55 seconds. The damage in the city was only slight.

The state of Guerrero has always been the focus of seismic disturbances. Reports received here state that the shock was very severe at Chilpan. No casualties are so far reported from there.

In duration the Chilpancingo shock was less prolonged than that in Mexico City, having lasted 50 seconds against 55 seconds at the capital.

The earthquake was also heavy at Iguala, in the state of Guerrero, destroying the parish church and many buildings in the city and neighborhood.

Among the latter was the sugar mill of General Frisbie, an American. The mill had just been completed and fitted up with American machinery at a cost of \$200,000.

The property loss is immense throughout the state of Guerrero.

GALLAGHER MURDER TRIAL. Defendant on the Stand Tells of the Encounter.

Auburn, Jan. 21.—Late yesterday afternoon James G. Gallagher, the defendant on trial for the murder of George E. Seibert, testifying in his own behalf, described the encounter in the saloon and he declared that Seibert attacked him first; that he, believing himself in danger of great bodily harm, pulled his revolver and fired over his opponent's head, intending to scare him. Seibert continued the struggle and the defendant struck him on the top of the head with the revolver and, while using the weapon as a club, it exploded.

Among the witnesses called to testify to Gallagher's previous good character were former Congressman Thomas Flood, chief of Police Cascaida, Attorney Joseph P. Eastles and Andrew Fitzsimmons of Elmira.

The morning session was taken up by expert Hamilton in explaining how near the revolver must have been to the victim's head and showing how it might have been fired by accident.

Veteran Frozen to Death. Bath, N. Y., Jan. 20.—The body of Dennis Donovan, an inmate of the Soldiers' home, was found yesterday under an old store house, a short distance from the Erie depot. He apparently had been dead for several days and the body was frozen. He was 74 years old, formerly lived in Buffalo and went to Rochester, Jan. 8 for examination by the pension board and was probably returning to the home and crawled under the shed and was frozen to death.

Admiral Schley's Appeal. Baltimore, Jan. 21.—Ladler Rayer, counsel for Rear Admiral W. S. Schley, has finished the draft of the appeal from the findings of the court of inquiry and will go to Washington today for a conference with the admiral. It is expected the admiral will be ready to hand the appeal to President Roosevelt on Wednesday. The document contains over 100 typewritten pages.

LABOR AND TYRANNY. Railroad President Denounces Unions as Arbitrary.

Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 18.—At Franklin and Marshall college chapel Thursday evening, George P. Baer, president of the board of trustees of the college and president of the Philadelphia and Reading railroad and the Central Railroad of New Jersey, delivered a lecture on "Work is Worship," in which he severely denounced labor unions. He said in part:

"Today there is no greater absolute despotism and tyranny on the earth than the power which furds a man to work because of some other man's quarrel."

"In some trades employers are not permitted to employ workmen without labor organization cards. Union men will not work with non-union men. Was ever before such tyranny practiced by one set of men over their fellow-men."

"So apathetic has the public conscience become to the terrorism, tyranny and lawlessness of labor organizations, that not only the politicians, who are seeking votes, but well-meaning men, who ought to know better, cry aloud against the decrees of the courts when the principles of constitutional liberty are invoked in legally established tribunals to restrain the lawlessness of labor organizations."

INHALED NATURAL GAS. One Woman Dead and Another's Recovery is Doubtful.

Corry, Pa., Jan. 18.—Mrs. William Woodan of West Washington street was found lying on a bed, dead, and in the same room near the door, gasping for breath, lay her cousin, Delia Drouse, dying. The Drouse woman was at once removed to the City hospital, but there are only slight hopes for her recovery.

The lady occupying the upper part of the house had been away attending a funeral and on returning noticed that something was wrong, the shades being down and the house very quiet. Still not thinking anything serious she did not spread the alarm for several minutes.

Finally neighbors were aroused and decided to force the door. This was quickly accomplished and the sad sight was exposed. Doctors were summoned, but nothing could be done for Mrs. Woodan. Death is supposed to have been caused by natural gas, which had permeated the rooms. This is the second accident of the kind in this vicinity within a month.

A sad feature of the tragedy is that Mrs. Woodan had returned home to pack her household goods, as she intended to move to a farm presented by her father. She was 22 years old. Her parents live in Pa.

Two Miners Killed. Shenandoah, Jan. 18.—A gas explosion at the Maple Hill colliery here Wednesday resulted in the death of John McGuire and John Lavanusky, both married men of this city. The explosion was caused by the men entering breast No. 29 in mistake for their own. This breast was filled with gas and as the men entered with their naked lamps the gas exploded with such force as to shock the whole inside workings.

Edinboro, Pa. In Flames. Erie, Pa., Jan. 18.—The business part of the town of Edinboro, 15 miles south of Erie, was wiped out Wednesday by a fire. Eleven business buildings and three residences are in ruins. Fire apparatus from Erie was sent there.

State Farmers Meet. Harrisburg, Jan. 18.—The meeting of the State Agricultural society, held here Wednesday, was very largely attended. The holding of the annual state fair was discussed and the selection of a time and place left to the executive committee.

ITEMS IN BRIEF. Clarkburg, W. Va.—Gaylord Cottrell, a carpenter, employed on the Williams building, fell 35 feet and crushed his frontal bone. He will die.

Parkersburg—Eugene Elsie, aged 21 years, a workman on the electric line from here to Marietta, fell from a trestle at Boaz and died from his injuries.

Cumocsville—Alexander B. Johnston has been elected captain of Company D, Tenth regiment, N. G. P. He was the only candidate for the office and there was no opposition.

Punxsutawney—The strike that has been in progress for the past 10 days at Eleanor and Florence mines has been settled satisfactorily to both sides, and the men returned to work.

New Castle—By the will of Mrs. Sara M. Dunlap she bequeaths \$1,000 to the Almire home for Aged Women of this city and \$500 to the Home Missionary society of the Central Presbyterian church here.

Beaver Falls—The laying of a third track at this place on the Fort Wayne road from the bridge over the Beaver river, south of town to Highland a few miles north, is in progress, with a large force of hands.

Wootter—Burglars at a nearby house Thursday morning wrecked the safe in the store of Bratzler & Pearlstein at Orrville. Nothing was secured from the safe. A lot of jewelry and silks is missing from the store.

Altoona—The milk controversy between the producers and retail dealers of the city has been settled. The large amount of milk coming here from a distance has brought about an adjustment. It is contended that the regular shipments, as heretofore, are expected to arrive in the city today.

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW. Bradstreet's Report on the Condition of Business.

New York, Jan. 18.—Bradstreet's says: The usual "January thaw" in prices arrived this week, and securities, food products, particularly the cereals, pork and dairy products, coffee and sugar among the groceries and copper among the metals have all weakened and those lower on the week. Improvement may be expected to follow, a striking example of this being in the cereals. High prices have killed off export trade but this seems to have revived this week on the decline. In distributive trade the situation has certainly improved.

Northwest advances are particularly good, agricultural implements and dry goods being ordered and shipped in large volume. Trade in the South-west continues satisfactory, but the lack of needed moisture for the winter wheat crop is a disturbing element, tending to dull the edge of trade. It is to be noted also that rain is needed in the wheat growing sections of California. More is doing in leading Eastern textile markets, prints and ginghams moving well with jobbers, while a good business is also reported in woolen goods, though the new prices made are rather lower than expected. There is even some improvement noted in Southern trade, largely the result of the firmer tone of raw cotton.

Extremes have met this week, the publication of widely divergent low minimum and high maximum crop estimates.

Among the industries iron and steel is still easily first in the volume of new business and in production although the car shortage is shown to have materially reduced the December output of pig iron.

Conservation in the matter of advancing pig iron prices is still noted. Southern producers announce that they will discourage any advance beyond \$12 for No. 2 at Birmingham. The advance in wire products is confirmed, price cutting is to be stopped, rods are stronger and sales of plates, merchant bars and structural are large.

The boot and shoe industry looks forward confidently to an active spring business. Although the question is not settled, it is generally expected that prices will go higher. The lumber trade is very strong.

Sugar dropped 3 1/2 cents for centrifugals, and refined is down to 4.65 cents (about 4 1/2 cents net.)

The cereals have been active and existed, limitation by disappointed "longs" was a feature early, and prices crumbled. Flour acted in sympathy with wheat. Corn and oats went off in sympathy, but those cereals are still above export levels.

Nineteen hundred and one was undoubtedly the very best year ever experienced by the railways of the country. Partial returns to Bradstreet's give a total of \$1,423,293,295 as gross earnings for 1901, an increase of 10.4 per cent over 1900.

Business failures for the week number 291, as against 246 last week; 290 in this week last year; 255 in 1900; 262 in 1899 and 309 in 1898.

Canadian trade is expanding. Retailers whose stocks of winter goods are light are buying more freely of spring goods and shipments are large. Failures for the week number 35, as against 32 last week and 50 in this week a year ago.

DR. KUYPER'S MISSION. Dutch Premier Endeavoring to Bring About Peace.

London, Jan. 18.—Reuter's Telegraph company has received the following dispatch from Amsterdam: "According to trustworthy information Dr. Kuyper, the Dutch premier, recently intimated to the Boer delegates the desirability, in view of Lord Roberts's speech at Chesterfield, of their giving some intimation to the British government of the basis upon which they would entertain peace negotiations. Dr. Kuyper pointed out the improbability of any of the great powers intervening in South Africa in the near future and suggested that he be allowed informally to sound his friends in London, in the hope of a semi-official response. The Dutch premier accordingly met Abraham Fischer, the leader of the Boer delegates, and others, at Brussels, where a long conference was held, after which Dr. Kuyper proceeded to London. The result of his visit, if any has been attained, is not yet known."

"It is understood that Dr. Kuyper distinctly assured the Boers that Holland, under no circumstances, would act as an intermediary."

"Dr. Leyds, the representative in Europe of the Transvaal, is expected shortly at The Hague."

Missing War Ship Condor. Victoria, B. C., Jan. 21.—The cruiser Phaeton will put to sea today to search for the missing warship Condor, of which no news has been received. The schooner Manila, which arrived twenty-three days from Honolulu, brought no news of her, but her master reports that when two hundred miles or so out from the Hawaiian port a lot of wreckage was passed.

Railroad Ticket Thieves. Utica, Jan. 21.—Railroad ticket office thieves are operating along the Central, Hudson and West Shore roads. The steamer at Kirville on both roads and at Chittenden on the Central were broken into. About \$50 in money was gathered up by the thieves and the penny in the slot gum and candy machines were smashed and their contents taken. \$100 was taken.