

**WARSHIPS BOMBARD FORT****Retaliation for Seizure of a British Merchant Steamer.****BIG POWERS ARE FORCING WAR.****Although President Castro Sends Word Granting the Satisfaction Demanded for Insult to the British Flag, the Warships Open Fire Before Acting Consul Volkmar Has Time to Deliver the Venezuelan Message.**

Puerto Cabello, Venezuela (By Cable).—The British cruiser Charybdis and the German cruiser Vineta bombarded the fortress here at 5 o'clock p. m. and quickly silenced it. The bombardment lasted for 45 minutes. The fortress is composed of Fort Solano and the Castle Libertador. After the firing ceased the Charybdis sent messages to occupy the castle. The fortress was almost demolished.

Three persons were killed, one of them being a German resident. The commander of the Castle Libertador has been taken prisoner. The cruisers are still here.

At 7 o'clock Sunday morning the Charybdis and the Vineta arrived here searching for Venezuelan gunboats. The two cruisers sent their boats into the inner port, but finding no gunboats the boats returned.

The captain of the British merchant steamer Topaze, which was seized by the mob here last Wednesday, then visited the British commander on board the Charybdis and lodged a protest against the violation of his ship. The British captain returned an hour later with a detachment of 50 marines, who took charge of the Topaze. The populace was greatly excited at this incident, and raised the cry "To arms!" but there was no disorder.

The British commander then sent a message to the authorities at Puerto Cabello demanding immediate satisfaction for the action of the mob in having hauled down the British flag from the Topaze, saying that if this satisfaction was not forthcoming in two hours—at 5 o'clock—the fortress and the customhouse would be bombarded. On the receipt of this demand the authorities sent a message to President Castro, asking for instructions.

A committee of the merchants of Puerto Cabello then approached Mr. W. H. Volkmar, American consul here, petitioning him to intervene. The Consul accepted the mission and visited the cruisers, but he could obtain no alteration in the decision of the allies.

At a quarter before five a reply was received from President Castro, who authorized the chief officials here to give the British commander ample satisfaction. Before this answer could be communicated to the British commander the hour stipulated for its receipt had arrived. The cruisers immediately opened fire on the fortress.

The fire was returned from Fort Solano and Castle Libertador, but the Venezuelan guns were soon silenced. While the firing continued there was intense excitement in this port. Every house in town was closed.

The people of Puerto Cabello cannot account for this precipitate action on the part of the allies, which they consider to be proof of a great British-German conspiracy forcing war upon Venezuela.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Arbitration has been proposed by President Castro as a means of settling the differences between his Government and those of Great Britain and Germany, the proposition being made to United States Minister Bowen for transmission to this Government, which will present it to the Foreign Offices at London and Berlin immediately.

Secretary Hay will act as the medium of communicating the proposition. The belief among officials of the State Department is that arbitration now is practically impossible, in view of the extreme measures adopted by the Governments concerned in the troubles, and that the situation has reached a stage where actual war practically prevails, although no formal declaration has been made or is likely to be made. There are numerous precedents in which the nations have entered down forts and sunk ships without war having been formally declared. The most recent case was the course of Great Britain and Germany in smashing the Taku forts and attacking the Chinese without a declaration of war.

Mr. Hay replied to Mr. Bowen's cablegram, authorizing him, in his discretion, to use his good offices to secure arbitration. He was, however, made to understand that in the arbitration, if one should follow, he would represent, not the Government of the United States, but that of Venezuela, at its request.

It is realized here that the outcome is extremely doubtful and the way is beset with difficulties. If the claims against Venezuela were only those of Great Britain and Germany, the adjustment might be easier, but France and Italy, the United States and perhaps other nations also have claims, and they cannot accept any arrangement which Great Britain and Germany might force on Venezuela that would deprive them of their right of reclamation.

The situation now prevailing has arisen in the last 24 hours great apprehension on the part of the Administration. There was a long discussion of the case between Mr. Hay and the President.

Although a perfect understanding has existed among the United States, Great Britain and Germany for several weeks as to the action taken against Venezuela in behalf of the claimants it is understood that this Government never expected such a treatment of the situation as has resulted in the last few days.

Chicago (Special).—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. Three of them are made from Aldehyde vine. He has named two of these poisons adipamide and adipamide and one is a stimulant. From the calandine poppy the Professor has extracted the fourth and fifth poisons, callatrophine and disphylline and from the Japanese caladine the poison bacconidine and one yet unnamed.

Financial.

Norfolk and Western has advanced wages of 600 telegraph operators to per cent.

The Widener-Elkins syndicate declares that Rapid Transit doesn't want Standard Oil's increase in prices to middlemen means an extra \$500,000,000, or 10 per cent. on the \$500,000,000 capital stock.

Predictions are made that Lehigh Valley will cross par by February 1 or immediately after the annual meeting in January.

United States Steel made a new low record for the year and the lowest since May 9, 1901.

Pittsburg Ramsey threatens to "cut Pittsburgh" unless the Wash gets fair treatment.

United States Steel earnings for November are estimated at \$11,500,000.

Hereafter street car companies, both solid and elevated, doing business in New York, will be required to pay a tax of \$50 per year on every car owned by them.

The Pacific Mail's offer to charter the United States fleet of Pacific transports ought to be of advantage to that company.

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Cold Consolation.

Gardiner, Me. (Special).—The passing of the recent cold snap which closed Maine rivers left those engaged in the ice industry on the Kennebec well satisfied at the prospects of an excellent harvest. The "freezer" is one of the best in a number of years. Everything is in readiness for the harvest. About 800,000 tons can be taken care of on this river. While the Kennebec fields are in excellent condition, those on the Penobscot are not up to what dealers would like.

**THE LATEST NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.****Domestic.**

Miss Freda Volquartz, of New York, was attacked by a bulldog, which seized her by the throat and had to be strangled to death to release his hold.

John D. Rockefeller, for so many a door-keeper of the House of Representatives, is dangerously ill with pneumonia at his home, in Brooklyn, N. Y.

John D. Rockefeller's dividend check for the last quarter of the year on his holdings of stock in the Standard Oil Company is for \$400,000.

There was blizzard weather and snow throughout the West and New England, New York state and also Pennsylvania.

A masked highwayman held up a stage near Grants Pass, Ore., but got only \$15 in the registered mail.

Three large silted distilleries were destroyed by revenue officers in the vicinity of Dark Corners, S. C.

Edward Morrissey and James Hilton had a terrible experience in the icy waters of Graysend Bay.

A general increase has been made in the wages of the trainmen of the Southern Railway.

There were many witnesses before the Anthracite Strike Commission to testify to miners' grievances against the operators.

President Mitchell was again on the stand and had a lively tilt with Counsel Torrey.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company is now assured of enough votes in the New York Board of Aldermen to pass the tunnel franchise next Tuesday.

The National Bank of New York and the Western National Bank, New York, were re-elected to the office of directors.

The American Public Health Association concluded its convention in New Orleans after electing officers.

The Georgia legislature passed a law extending the terms of the governor and other state officials.

There was a fire panic in the Ridpath Hotel, in Spokane, Wash., but all the guests got out safely.

A number of Yale students were fined in New Haven for taking away tickets from a speculator.

John C. Gilman was re-elected president of the National Civil Service Reform Association.

John N. Partridge, commissioner of education of New York, has resigned.

J. C. Brownfield, convicted at Eldorado, Kan., of the murder of Mrs. Olin Castle, has been sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.

Naval men at San Juan say the shooting of the sailor Costello, of the United States ship Wasb, by the Porto Rico police was unwarranted. Costello died of his wound.

The body of the wife of Prof. Marshall A. Barber, of Kansas University, was found in the river near Lawrence, Kan. She is supposed to have committed suicide.

Lieutenant Commander Rooney, in command of the United States steamer Frolic when it ran aground, is being tried by court-martial at Cavite.

By voting against the sale of liquor the village of Cleveland, near Cleveland, Ohio, secures the new shops of the Lake Shore Railroad.

H. L. Meites was arrested in Chicago on the charge of running a plant for the counterfeiting of union cigar labels.

A powerful railroad protective bureau has been organized for the purpose of running down ticket forgers.

Reciprocity with Canada and Cuba was discussed at the National Reciprocity Convention, in Detroit, Mich.

The Moros on the island of Mindanao refused to surrender an American camp, but were repulsed.

The building permit for the new capitol at Harrisburg, Pa., fixes the value at \$4,000,000.

Mrs. Dora Lightner was acquitted of the murder of Miss Lucy Wheeler at Toledo, O.

Pat Crowe is said by his brother, who lives in Chicago, to be in Johannesburg.

Foreign.

M. Philipp, the spiritualist who, it has been reported, existed a time a remarkable influence over the czar, is a native of Lyons, France, where he enjoyed the reputation of having wonderful powers for curing people.

In a clash between the strikers and the police at Marseilles several persons on both sides were injured. Troops guarded the streets and the strikers' strike was broken.

The National Assembly of Haiti will in a few days elect a new president. General Nord will enter the capital with his army next Sunday.

The United Fruit Company's steamer Kirby, which went ashore on Roncador Reef, 300 miles from Jamaica, is a total wreck.

Vice Admiral Krays, the minister of marine of the Netherlands, is dead.

Leon Castillo, the Spanish ambassador at Paris, has resigned.

While the British and German residents of Caracas were arrested have all been released, it is reported that the Venezuelan authorities at Puerto Cabello seized and imprisoned British and German consuls and other British and German residents.

Several thousand Venezuelan troops are gathering at Lagayra to resist the foreign forces.

Germany has nominated Dr. Siegel to be a member of the International Court of Arbitration in the place of Dr. Binger, President of the Senate of the High Court.

Pouliny Bigelow, in a address to the Munich Geographical Society, advocated making Shanghai a republic free from consular or other official meddling.

Terrific storms continue to sweep the coast of Newfoundland. Four more schooners have been lost—one with her entire crew of 20 persons.

Vice-President Deuchler was elected president of the Swiss Confederation.

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**PACIFIC CABLE LANDED****The Shore End Successfully Laid at San Francisco.****MESSAGE SENT OVER THE CABLE.****Silverton Now Speeding Towards Honolulu at the Rate of Seven Knots an Hour, Laying the Cable on the Bottom of the Pacific—Crowd of 40,000 Witness the Inauguration of a New Era of Development.**

San Francisco (Special).—"In memory of John W. Mackay I christen this Pacific cable. May it always carry messages of happiness."

With these words, Lucille Gage, the 11-year-old daughter of H. T. Gage, Governor of California, christened the trans-Pacific cable, and breaking a bottle of champagne over the shore end, inaugurated a new era in the commercial development of the Pacific Coast.

The landing and splicing of the shore end which is to connect the mainland with Honolulu was accomplished without a hitch and was witnessed by nearly 40,000 people. Ideal weather prevailed there being scarcely any surf.

The steamer Newboy, carrying six miles of cable, steamed close inshore and by a life-saving boat's crew sent a rope, to which the cable was attached, ashore. Word was sent to President Clarence H. Mackay and the cable and Postal Telegraph Company officials that all was in readiness.

The work of hauling in the cable was done so quickly that the officials arrived on the beach only two minutes before the cable touched the beach and was christened at 9:55 a. m.

While the cable was being spliced to the land end Mayor Schmitz delivered a short speech, congratulating Mr. Mackay on the successful beginning of the undertaking. He spoke of the importance of the work and of the benefit to the world at large that would result from its completion.

Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Pacific Commercial Cable Company, made a short speech of thanks.

Gov. H. T. Gage, on behalf of the State of California, paid a fervent tribute to the late John W. Mackay. The formal exercises closed with cheers for the cable and its promoters.

A portion of the cable was cut up into small pieces as souvenirs and distributed by President Mackay among his special guests. During the ceremonies an artillery band from the Presidio played.

Says Award is Excessive.

Salvador has applied for a reduction of the award, aggregating \$500,000, made by the arbitration board which met in Washington last spring for the \$1,200,000 awarded to the Postal Commercial Cable Company, an American concern, through the appropriation of their franchise. The allegation is made that the award is excessive.

The State Department has for the last two weeks been earnestly considering this subject, but present indications it has not changed its mind as to the justice of the award, which must be paid over by next February at the latest.

Old Way is Preferred.

The committee appointed by Acting Postmaster-General Wynne to investigate the many devices submitted to the department to take the place of twine in tying up letter packages reported to the Postmaster-General against the devices proposed. The report states that while probably, after a long period of time, a direct saving might result from the substitution of a device which had been tested heretofore in the New England States, it would take more time in tying and untying the mail, and hence delay the distribution of mail. Other objections also are raised.

A More Elastic Currency.

A bill was introduced by Representative Pugsley, of New York, the aim of which, as the title states, is to "render the currency more elastic and commensurate to the financial and commercial requirements of the country."

The controller of the currency, with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury, is authorized by this measure to issue circulating notes under certain prescribed conditions. These circulating notes may be issued to any national bank to the extent of one-half the face value of bonds deposited with the bank with the Treasury, and are to be secured by approved notes, bonds or bills receivable, double in value the amount of issue.

Money Sent From This Country to People in Foreign Lands.

New York (Special).—Just \$616,618 is now in the strongroom of the big ocean steamers Kronprinz Wilhelm and Umbria, which cleared for Bremen and Liverpool. This money is in the shape of 34,422 postal money orders, drawn by the New York postoffice on 15 countries of Europe and sent home as "Christmas money" by former residents of those countries who now make the United States their home.

The 1902 payment exceeds that carried over by the Umbria on December 9 of last year by \$26,256. Never before has such a gigantic shipment of money orders, either in numbers or amount, been made.

In addition the regular mail pouches were packed full with Christmas presents for relatives and friends on the other side. This year's Christmas mail exceeds by many thousands of pounds any previous shipment.

Opposed to Gold Standard.

City of Mexico (Special).—The silver question continues to be one of the great topics of public discussion. It is now certain that the silver miners and the farming classes will make common cause against the adoption of the gold standard. The miners argue that the silver mines in gold standard countries will be shut down at the present price of silver, while Mexican mines cannot continue to be operated; also that silver mining and agricultural interests have more claim on the protection of the government than railways or merchants. Meantime all prices are being raised, and there is much anxiety among the middle classes, especially wage earners and salaried men.

Governor Used Drastic Measures.

Charleston, S. C. (Special).—An attempt to have an exhibition of fighting of bulls, dogs and chickens near Rock Hill, York county, resulted disastrously. Governor McSwiney had instructed the sheriff to prohibit the fighting. The owners of the above claimed that nothing but an injunction from the court could stop the animal fights. The sheriff thereupon called on the Catawba Rifles, of the local militia, for aid, and the bull, dog and chicken fights were stopped.

Robber Wore a Red Mask.

Grant's Pass, Ore. (Special).—While the William Creek and Grant's Pass stage was on its way to Youngfellow a man, with a red mask, appeared from the woods, and presenting a revolver, commanded the driver and one passenger to hold up their hands. The robber then ordered the mailbags to be thrown out. This was done, and then he commanded the driver to drive on. Later it was found that the mailbags had been opened and only \$15 in registered matter secured, as the mail was light. Officers are in pursuit.

**DOINGS AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL.****Consular Service Reform.**

A bill was introduced in the House by Representative Robert Adams (Pa.) to provide for the reorganization of the consular service of the United States.

Provision is made for classification of consuls-general and consuls, specifying the number and salary of each class, and for the examination of applicants and those now in the service. Of the latter those who fail to pass are to be dropped, but none can be called for examination within six months from the date of the passage of the bill. Consuls-general and consuls may be transferred by the President from one place to another of the same class. Special examinations are provided for those who may be sent where the United States exercises extra territorial jurisdiction.

New Inauguration Date.

A joint resolution was introduced in the House by Representative David A. De Armond, of Missouri, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the inauguration of the President be continued until April 30, 1905, at noon, and thereafter April 30, at noon, shall be substituted for March 4, as the beginning and ending of the terms of the President and Vice-President, and that the fifty-ninth Congress shall end and the sixtieth begin on January 3, at noon, and thereafter after each Congress shall begin and end on January 8 at noon.

Responsibilities Divided.

Commissioner of Immigration Frank P. Sargent argued before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce that the Bureau of Immigration would be greatly benefited and the immigration laws could be more effectively enforced if the bureau should be transferred to the proposed Department of Commerce.

Sargent said his bureau must now rely largely upon the customs collectors for the enforcement of the immigration laws, which arrangement, he said, is not satisfactory to either the collectors or to his bureau, for the reason that embarrassment is occasioned to the officers called to enforce customs laws and immigration laws at the same time.

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**MRS. U. S. GRANT DEAD****An Attack of Bronchitis Brings on Heart Failure.****NONE OF HER SONS WERE PRESENT.****Illness of the Widow of the Famous Warrior and President Terminates Fatally—Doctors Had Given Up Hope, and the End Was Expected at Any Time—Mrs. Sartoris Was at Her Bedside.**

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, widow of President Grant, died at her residence in this city at 11:17 o'clock Sunday night.

Death was due to heart failure, Mrs. Grant having suffered for some years from valvular disease of the heart, which was aggravated by a severe attack of bronchitis. Her age prevented her rallying from the attack.

Nelle Grant Sartoris, her daughter, was the only one of her children with her at the time of her death, her three sons, who had been summoned here, all being out of the city.

There also were present at the bedside when the end came Miss Rosemary Ulysses S. Grant, two of the sons now in California, that they have started on their way to Washington. The other son, Gen. Fred Grant, will hasten here from Texas as soon as he receives a message telling him of his mother's death.

Mrs. Grant has been in poor health since her return early this fall from her summer home at Coburg, Canada. Coburg is a fashionable place for Americans, Europeans and diplomats. Last August Mrs. Grant was a little overtaxed by anxiety over the details of the wedding at that place of her granddaughter, Miss Vivian May Sartoris, to Mr. Frederick Roosevelt Scovel. Early in October Mrs. Grant's condition was such that her physicians advised her immediate removal to Washington.

She was brought to this city on a special car, arriving on October 17.

Since then she has been confined to her bed most of the time. Her son, Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, who has just returned from the Philippines to assume command of the Department of the Texas, was here at the time and was a source of much comfort to her.

THREE CHILDREN CREMATED.

Mother Became Insane When She Found They Were Dead.

New York (Special).—A lighted lamp as a makeshift to heat a room caused the death of three negro children named Smith in a tenement-house at 443 West Sixteenth street. The lamp exploded and was overturned by the children, who were alone in the room. When the firemen arrived they were dead.

The mother of the children is a laundress. She started out to collect from her customers, leaving the children, Annie, aged 7; Gertrude, aged 4; and Sadie, aged 2, in bed for warmth. She locked the door and took the key with her. The first intimation to the outside that there was a fire in the flat came from smoke pouring through a kitchen window into a courtyard. In the confusion no one thought of the Smith children.

Captains' Firms of Engine No. 3, the first to arrive, climbed up the fire-escape to the kitchen window of the Smith flat and entered the rooms. He found the little ones dead.

When the Smith woman returned to the house and learned of the death of her children she became insane.

Tears Froze on His Face.

Auburn, N. Y. (Special).—Last Sunday afternoon Willie Hinger, aged five years, was sent on an errand by his parents. He did not return, and Monday his dead body was found on the piazza of Laundryman Haley's home, outside the city limits. His clothing was frozen to the floor. Tears had frozen upon the little sufferer's face. It was supposed he had arrived at Mr. Haley's early Sunday evening and was overcome by the cold before he could arouse the household. The door leading to the piazza where the body was found was little used, and the discovery was only made Monday. Besides the regular police force 25 special officers had been searching for the child.

Stamps Used as Fuel.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—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. Coal could not be had in any quantity, and the engineers suggested that the millions of documentary stamps, rendered worthless by the repeal of the War Revenue Act, be used as fuel in the furnaces, instead of being burned in the specially prepared furnaces. The idea was adopted. While the stamps were being burned a government inspector stood in the engine-room to see that the stamps were consumed.

Southern Journalists' Death.

Riverside, Cal. (Special).—James Harvey Mathes, a prominent Southern author and newspaper man, died here of consumption, aged 65 years. For many years he was editor of the Memphis Republic Ledger and at one time was on the staff of the Louisville Courier-Express. He was a member of the Paris Exposition Commission and had served in the Confederate army as captain of volunteers.

Not Bound to Have Doctor.

Atlanta (Special).—The Supreme Court of Georgia handed down a decision which is regarded by Christian Scientists as a vindication. A resident of Dublin, Ga., a Christian Scientist, refused to give medicine to his sick child. The child died and the father was arrested and fined \$300. The case was appealed to the State Supreme Court, which reversed the judgment of the lower court. It holds that failure to give medical attendance to children when ill is not a violation of the laws of the State.

Big Demand for New Pennies.

New York (Special).—A requisition has been made for 15,000,000 brand new pennies by the authorities in control of the subtreasury in this city for use in the holiday season, a ratio of more than five new pennies for each man, woman and child in the Greater City. This demand, greater by 50 per cent. than in any preceding year, has been created largely by department stores, which, at this season of the year, when articles run in the "dollar ninety-eights," invariably hand back as part of the change two shining copper cents.

**RECIPROCITY TREATY.****Arrangements Between United States and Cuba Have Been Concluded.**

Havana (Special).—A definite treaty of commercial reciprocity between Cuba and the United States was signed at 11 o'clock p. m., by General Bliss and Secretaries Zaldo and Montes. It only lacks the signature of Secretary Hay and Senor Quesada and the approval of the United States and Cuban senators to make it operative.

Although the treaty provides for a uniform reduction of 20 per cent. from the present tariff charges on Cuban products entering the United States, a parallel list of products has been drawn up in which is set forth the reductions on each item made by Cuba and the United States, respectively.

It is impossible now to make any material change in this list.

Washington is Puzzled.

Washington (Special).—"Treaty signed 11:15 p. m." was the message which came to the State Department from General Bliss at Havana, confirming the press report of the conclusion of a reciprocity arrangement between the United States and Cuba.

The officials here are puzzled to know just what has been signed; they thought that protocol or protocols had been prepared, but General Bliss's message carries the inference that he has actually concluded a definite reciprocity treaty. If he has done so the President will accept it and forward it to the Senate for its action, and the officers of the Quesada here were being required to give effect to the convention.

The State Department does not feel at liberty to make public the details of the arrangement; in fact, some of these will not be known until the Havana mail reaches here, for General Bliss undoubtedly has made some changes in the duties on American imports into Cuba originally proposed.

Burglars in a Bank.

Irwin, Pa. (Special).—Burglars entered the First National Bank, this city, and made seven unsuccessful attempts to blow open the vault. They succeeded in getting away with \$1,000 of post-office money that had been placed in a small, but apparently safe, repository. They stole two briefcases from a lady who had just entered, and were driven to Jacksonville