

**drove Germans away**

**A Venezuelan Bombardment That Turned Out a Failure.**

**ONLY THREE MEN WERE WOUNDED.**

**Panther Shelled Fort San Carlos, Which Commanded the Entrance to Maracaibo, and After an Hour's Exchange of Shot and Shell, Retired.—The Commandant Claims He Forced the Warship to Retire.**

Maracaibo, Venezuela (By Cable).—The German cruiser Panther shelled Fort San Carlos, at the entrance to Lake Maracaibo, for one hour. The fort returned the fire with four guns. The Panther withdrew in the direction of Curacao.

Fort San Carlos is 22 miles from Maracaibo, and commands the entrance of the lake or inner bay.

The correspondent here has received the following letter from General Bello, the commander of the fort: "Sunday afternoon at 12:30 Fort San Carlos was attacked and shelled, without any provocation on our part, without previous notification or the delivering of an ultimatum, by the German cruiser Panther, which tried to force an entrance. After a fight lasting an hour, during which the fort used only four guns, the Panther was obliged to abandon the fight and retreated in the direction of Curacao. The fort has suffered no damage, and only three men were wounded."

There have been popular demonstrations on the streets here as a result of the shelling of the fort.

**SURPRISE IN WASHINGTON.**

**Another Attack on Venezuelans Was Not Expected.**

Washington (Special).—Official Washington received the news of the bombardment of Fort San Carlos by the German cruiser Panther with the greatest astonishment.

No one in official circles would comment on it, and Secretary Hay, who just returned home from New York, did not learn the details of the engagement. Count Quadri, a charge of the German Embassy, is still in New York, and inquiries at the Embassy brought no information on the subject.

It has been supposed here that nothing more than a peaceful blockade would be maintained after the agreement of all parties concerned to submit the case to the Hague tribunal. The bombardment of Puerto Cabello, before an agreement of any kind was reached, and because of an attack on English sailors by Venezuelans, created less surprise.

**BIG GUN IS FIRED.**

**New 15-inch Rifle, Largest in America, Does Well—20-Mile Range.**

New York (Special).—The most powerful gun ever built in America, a huge 15-inch coast-defense rifle, was successfully tested at the Government proving ground, Sandy Hook.

It was fired three times in the presence of several hundred army officers, a few civilians and Congressman Gillette, of Massachusetts, who was invited as a member of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee.

General Crozier said the tests showed the gun was an absolute success and proved that 15-inch guns could be furnished whenever the country wanted them.

The gun cost \$200,000. It was said that it undoubtedly would be mounted at Sandy Hook. General Crozier said that while its range at its highest elevation was about 20 miles, it could be used to hit objects at a distance of only four or five miles. Objects farther away could not be seen.

General Crozier made a speech just before the first shot was fired in which he said the gun was planned sixteen years ago, and was authorized by Congress to assist in the prevention of such a crisis as that which is now being met by the world. He warned those present that the weapon might burst, as the charge of smokeless powder was by far the largest ever fired. The gun was the greatest step in advance yet taken in ordnance.

**READ HIS OWN MESSAGE.**

**Gov. La Follette, of Wisconsin, Urges Legislature to Pass Anti-Trust Act.**

Madison, Wis. (Special).—Both houses of the Wisconsin legislature met in joint session at 2 o'clock, when the Governor's message was read. Governor La Follette read the message in person. He devoted much space to matters pertaining to railway taxation and the control of freight rates in Wisconsin.

On the subject of trusts, the Governor said: "I desire to emphasize for your attention the importance of providing most specifically the form and manner for enforcement of such laws as you may enact for the prevention of illegal combinations within the State to restrain the operations in this State by such combinations organized elsewhere, and for the punishment of violators of such laws."

The Governor strongly urged the enactment of a law against the paid lobbyist.

**4714 Perish at Andijan.**

St. Petersburg (By Cable).—The official figures show that 4714 persons lost their lives and that 33,112 houses were destroyed as a result of the recent earthquakes at Andijan, Russian Turkistan.

**Conditions of Arbitration.**

Berlin (By Cable).—In the negotiations which are about to begin at Washington, Great Britain and Germany, as the result of further correspondence, are quite determined that the irreducible condition of arbitration is that President Castro shall pay or give collateral security for the sums already specified. The powers will not consent to raising the blockade until Venezuela accedes with this unalterable condition. The allies place the responsibility for further delay upon Venezuela.

**Rob Seized Five Carloads of Coal.**

Toledo, Ohio (Special).—A mob including over 200 men, women, boys and girls seized five carloads of soft coal which had just arrived in the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad yards, consigned to the National Malleable Casting Company and local oil men. There was no attempt to stop the wholesale seizure, neither the police, nor the officials of the railway or casting company taking a hand in the affair. The fuel was carried off in wagons, sleighs, soap boxes, buckets and baskets, and nothing but the slack was left in any car.

**THE LATEST NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.**

**Domestic.**

The delayed steamer St. Louis, of the American Line, arrived at New York and the passengers landed thoroughly indignant at the company. During the voyage an indignation meeting was held and resolutions passed denouncing the company for sending them across the ocean on a crippled ship.

Five sailors belonging to the Minneapolis, at League Island Navy Yard, had a dangerous row on a floating calk of ice in the Delaware River. Their rescue was very dramatic.

The Hanover National Bank moved into its new building and \$65,000,000 was carried safely through the crowded streets of New York.

The Erie Society of New York gave a banquet to Secretary Hay. Many of the diplomats from Washington attended.

Mrs. James R. Booth, wife of a prominent Philadelphia attorney, committed suicide at a hotel in Atlantic City.

In his testimony in New York before the Interstate Commerce Commission Mr. August Belmont, former president of the Louisville and Nashville Road, did not know that John W. Gates had secured possession of a majority of the stock of the road until he was actually in control.

At Riverhead, L. I., Louis A. Disbro was acquitted of the charge of killing Clarence Foster at Good Ground on the night of June 9. The verdict was reached by the jury after deliberating an hour and a half before the National Live-stock Association in Kansas City Hon. W. M. Springer said that the incorporation of the Beef Trust had been prevented by the power of public opinion.

The will of Dr. Bushrod James, of Philadelphia, makes provision for establishing a free hospital in that city for the treatment of diseases of the eye and ear.

Testimony was given at the Glenn court-martial in Manila of horrible tortures inflicted upon American prisoners by the Filipinos in Samar.

Two hundred shoemakers are on a strike at Lynn, Mass., because of alleged grievances. Their strike affects 3,000 hands in the factories.

The overdue steamer St. Louis was sighted off Nantucket. Shoals slowly steaming toward New York.

Because of the coal famine there is great suffering among the sick at Schenectady, N. Y.

Sentences of two years and six months were imposed at Freehold, N. J., on Dr. Hendricks and former Justice of the Peace Stanton for conspiracy to secure possession of the estate of the late H. M. Bennett.

President Spencer, of the Southern Railway, gave testimony in New York before the Interstate Commerce Commission on the merger case of the Louisville and Nashville and the Atlantic Coast Line.

Deeds transferring six coal mines in the vicinity of Springfield, Ill., to an Eastern syndicate were filed for record, the consideration being about \$1,000,000.

The executive committee of the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church of the United States of America is in session in Pittsburg.

Six Americans who served in the Colombian Army and who returned to San Francisco report rough experience.

Mrs. Caroline Churchill Miller, wife of former United States Senator Warner Miller, died in New York.

**Foreign.**

John Redmond, M. P., in an address at Edinburgh, said he believed a measure would soon be adopted that would settle the Irish land question and heal the wounds of centuries.

The Russian note in reply to that of Great Britain on the sugar convention says she considers the latter's contentions as an interference with her domestic legislation.

The members of the American Embassy and a number of French officials attended the banquet of the American Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

The Sultan's troops had an unimportant conflict with the Pretender's forces in Morocco.

The French Chamber of Deputies, after a lively debate, supported the policy of Premier Combes in enforcing his order to priests in Brittany forbidding the use of the Breton dialect in preaching and catechizing.

Capt. Alder Nicholls confessed in St. Johns, N. F., that he cast away the schooner Bessie Dodd for the insurance money, and implicated Mr. Jarrett, who shipped the cargo of fish she was carrying.

The German Reichstag adopted a resolution asking the government to denounce treaties with countries where the most-favored-nation clause was injurious to German interests.

Fifty thousand dollars has been subscribed for the prosecution of Whitaker Wright and others involved in the failure of the London and Globe Finance Corporation.

Premier Coloman de Szell announced to the Hungarian Parliament the intention of the government to give Austria-Hungary a single law.

The official figures show that 4,714 persons lost their lives in the recent earthquake disaster at Andijan, Russian Turkistan.

**EXPLOSION ON BATTLESHIP**

**Six Men Are Killed and Several Others Wounded.**

**MAGNIFICENT DISCIPLINE SHOWN.**

**The Accident Occurred on the Massachusetts While off Cuba In Land Engaged in Target Practice—Explosion Was Due to Accidental Discharge of Percussion Primer While Breach of Gun Was Open.**

San Juan, Porto Rico (Special).—Six men were killed and four others were wounded, two of them probably fatally, by the explosion of a powder charge of an 8-inch gun on board the United States battleship Massachusetts while at target practice off Cuba Island.

The explosion occurred in the starboard after 8-inch turret, shortly before noon, and was due to the accidental discharge of a percussion primer while the breach of the gun was open. The full charge exploded in the turret and killed or injured all the crew of the gun, numbering nine men. Ensign Ward K. Wortman, who was in charge of the turret, escaped injury, though he was standing near the scene of the explosion.

Magnificent discipline was immediately shown by the officers and crew of the battleship. Capt. Harry Lee, commanding the marine guard of the vessel, and Ensign Clarence A. Abele immediately flooded the turret with water and Lieut. Charles F. Hughes and Gunner Kuller went below to the magazine, picking up powder charges, and prevented further explosion, while Lieut. William C. Cole and Capt. Someman entered the turret and withdrew the charge from the other gun, whose breach was open. The survivors of the gun's crew when rescued were burned, mutilated and nearly dead.

One man whose clothing was on fire, jumped overboard.

In less than a minute after the explosion three streams of water were pouring into the turret, preventing the charge in the other eight-inch gun from exploding.

A funeral service for the men who met their death in the explosion took place at the cemetery of Porto Rico, where the interment took place. The regimental band of the garrison of Porto Rico took part in the ceremony. Admiral Higginson and the officers of the Massachusetts were at the graveside, where military honors, and also Masonic honors for one of the dead, were rendered.

**EDITOR SHOT IN COLD BLOOD.**

**N. G. Gonzales Wounded by Lieutenant Governor Tillman.**

Columbia, S. C. (Special).—Mr. N. C. Gonzales, editor of the State and widely known throughout the South, is at the Columbia Hospital in a critical condition as the result of a pistol wound inflicted by Mr. James H. Tillman, lieutenant-governor of South Carolina. The shooting occurred on Main street, just at the intersection of Gervais street, in full view of the State Capitol. It was an awful tragedy, in broad daylight, on the most frequented street and corner in Columbia. It was just a few moments before 2 o'clock when the cry was passed along the streets that "Jim Tillman had shot N. G. Gonzales."

The announcement went like a thrill through all Columbia, and there was a rush towards the scene of the tragedy to learn the facts and the condition of the distinguished editor. The office of the State is on the same block as the scene of the shooting, and it took only a few moments for a throng to assemble in front of the newspaper building. The excitement and the indignation on the streets was intense.

**FOR 25 MORE BATTLESHIPS.**

Representative Joy of Missouri introduced a concurrent resolution directing the United States Naval Academy to prepare a bill for the construction of 25 additional battle-ships, at a cost of not more than \$5,000,000 each. Mr. Joy said:

"With \$700,000,000 in our Treasury, we certainly are able to build a navy which will make us absolutely certain that we can enforce the Monroe doctrine."

Senator Warren, from the Committee on Agriculture, reported the House bill increasing the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture in the prevention of the increase of contagious diseases among live stock. The committee recommends the adoption of an amendment to the bill making violation of the provisions of the proposed law a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment.

**Contagion Among Live Stock.**

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**Larger Postoffice at Lynchburg.**

Representative Carter Glass has introduced a bill, carrying an appropriation of \$60,000, for the enlargement of the postoffice building at Lynchburg, Va. There is under consideration a proposition to build a new Federal building, but this has not yet taken definite shape.

**States of Emigrant Texans.**

Senator Culberson presented to the Senate a recommendation from Governor Sayers, of Texas, tendering to the United States of Gen. Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, to be placed in Statuary Hall at the Capitol, to represent the State of Texas.

**Investigation of Mining Interests.**

An amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill appropriating \$100,000 for the investigation of the mining interests of the country by the Geological Survey was introduced by Senator Perkins.

**In the Departments.**

The Statehood Bill, the Immigration Bill and the Cuban Reciprocity Treaty will demand the attention of the Senate.

The flagship Mayflower, with Admiral Dewey and his fleet staff aboard, arrived at the Washington Navy Yard from Culebra.

**President Roosevelt will make an extended trip through the West in the spring. He will spend most of his time hunting in the wild regions of Colorado and Montana.**

The latest accident bulletin, just issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission, shows that for the quarter ending September 30, 1902, 243 persons were killed and 2,013 injured in train accidents, while the total number of railroad casualties was 845 killed and 11,163 injured.

The House Naval Committee acted favorably upon construction of three large battleships and one cruiser.

The Pennsylvania, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and the Lehigh Valley Railroad Companies have filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission statements that recent advances in freight rates are merely restorations of old rates.

The regular order, the Department of Commerce Bill, was displaced and the House proceeded to the consideration of private claims bills.

Because of a difference as to the amount of rental the negotiations with Colombia for right of way for the inter-oceanic canal are off.

The Agricultural Appropriation Bill calls for \$6,000,000.

**WITH THE NATIONAL LAWMAKERS.**

**House of Representatives Refuses to Authorize an Insurance Bureau.**

At the end of a struggle, which prolonged the session until after 6 o'clock, the House passed the substitute for the Senate bill to establish a Department of Commerce and Labor. The vote stood 137 to 40. All the Republicans and 29 Democrats voted for the bill.

In committee of the whole the Democrats and a sprinkling of Republicans, led by Mr. John B. Colliers, struck out the part of the bill providing for a Bureau of Insurance. By a piece of parliamentary strategy Mr. William P. Hepburn, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, sought to have this provision restored, but the opposition stood fast and he was overcome. The Democrats then attempted to recommit the bill, with instructions to report back a separate bill for the creation of a Department of Labor, but the motion was lost. The only other substantial amendment was one to authorize the President to transfer the Interstate Commerce Commission to the new department.

**Coal From Canada and Elsewhere Can Be Imported Free of Duty.**

For one year all coal will be imported practically free of duty, and for all time hereafter anthracite coal is on the free list.

The House passed the bill granting for one year a rebate of the full duty on all coal imported into the United States, and when the bill reached the Senate that body added an amendment before adopting the bill, by which anthracite coal shall be forever on the free list.

Both the prompt action of Mr. Aldrich in accepting the House bill and his concession to Mr. Vest, who has been making his fight for free coal, created an agreeable surprise. There was no hard and fast definition of just what shall be regarded as anthracite coal, so that it is quite possible that after the period of the rebate expires all coal not showing 92 per cent. of carbon will again be held as dutiable under the Dingley law. But for the next 12 months coal is practically on the free list, and it is not impossible that if the American coal mines succeed in doing out an existence during that period, in spite of foreign competition, that Senator Aldrich and his colleagues will hesitate before they oppose a motion to keep coal on the free list permanently.

It would punish as extortionists. A bill was introduced by Representative John C. Bell providing that any producer, dealer, transporter, agent or other person in any territory of the United States who deals with any other person or persons for the purpose of raising the price of any article of food or fuel, or its carriage and handling, shall be guilty of extortion. A maximum penalty of \$5,000 fine or imprisonment for one year is provided.

**Millions for Naval Academy.**

The Naval Affairs Committee of the House adopted by an almost unanimous vote, Mr. Mudd's proposition to appropriate an additional \$2,000,000 for the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Mr. Mudd made a strong argument in favor of the increase, which, he said, was required to meet the increased cost of building materials and to make the Academy what it should be, "the grandest and best of its kind in the world." This increase will raise the total amount appropriated for the Academy to \$10,000,000.

**Cruelties of Filipinos.**

Several American sympathizers were buried alive.

Maila (By Cable).—Six officers who served in the Island of Samar testified before the court-martial which is trying Major Edwin F. Glenn, of the Fifth Infantry, on the charge of unlawfully killing seven prisoners of war in Samar. The witnesses mostly detailed the enemy's acts of barbarity, such as burying persons alive, mutilating live and dead persons and torturing and murdering prisoners and natives in sympathy with the Americans.

The defense produced an order of General Lucban, directing the use of poison against Americans.

The court admitted as evidence the captured report revealing additional details of the plot which led to the Balangiga massacre.

The witnesses agreed that the policy of Brigadier General Jacob H. Smith was necessary and that it ended the insurrection in Samar.

Captain Smith testified that the friendly natives who were refugees in the mountains in his district petitioned to be allowed to return to the town and promised to support the Americans.

Captain Swaine, said the witness, told General Smith they would die of starvation if left in the mountains, and General Smith, the witness added, said: "Let them die. The sooner they are dead the sooner we shall have peace."

**No Chewing Gum, No Work.**

St. Louis (Special).—Because of an order issued by their foreman that they must refrain from chewing gum during working hours, 65 girls, employed as band wrappers for the Samuel Cupples Envelope Company, went on a strike and refused to return unless the decree is withdrawn. The foreman says there is no objection to the girls chewing gum during the noon hour, but there is objection during working hours.

**107 Deaths from Plague.**

Mazatlan, Mex. (Special).—There have been 107 deaths from the plague since January 1. The deaths on January 15 numbered seven, and many new cases are reported. Most of the ladies of the higher class have left the city, and hardly any women are seen on the streets. Trade is reduced to the lowest possible point. Great disappointment is felt in the non-arrival of serum on the steamer from Guaymas.

**Identified as "Butch" Clark.**

Chicago (Special).—The second of the robbers who held up a Burlington train near Marcus, Ill., on August 5 and murdered one of their companions to prevent betrayal, was positively identified at the Pinkerton office as Thomas Clark, known as "Butch" Clark, one of the most daring and notorious criminals in the country. By members of the train crew Clark is recognized as the one who placed the pistol at the head of the wounded bandit and blew out his brains.

**McKinley Memorial.**

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Col. J. C. Bonner, president of the McKinley Memorial Association, of Toledo, O., extended an invitation to the President to attend the unveiling of the McKinley memorial, which was erected by the citizens of Toledo. The date of the unveiling has not been fixed, but will be in the fall of 1903.

The probability is that it will be about the time the President starts on his western trip in the spring. The President told Colonel Bonner that he would be glad to attend the unveiling.

**A BIG DEAL IS RUMORED**

**The Pennsylvania, It Is Said, Will Get the New York Central.**

**ALL RAILROAD EXPERTS CREDIT IT.**

**Wall Street Brokers Inclined to Doubt—Significance of Recent Big Moves by A. J. Cassatt—Pennsylvania Railroad Mileage East and West of Pittsburg is 8,858, and New York Central is 10,287.**

New York (Special).—Wall street does not fully credit a story revived that the Pennsylvania is to absorb the New York Central railroad system. Neither does it fully credit the rumor that the Pennsylvania will in a few weeks be in control of the New York, New Haven and Hartford.

With practical railroad men outside Wall street, who are watching President A. J. Cassatt's big moves in the development of the Pennsylvania system, these rumors find more credence. They profess confidence that Mr. Cassatt's next coup will see the Pennsylvania in Boston and that the acquisition of the New York Central will be accomplished in time, though possibly not for a year or more.

These men regard it as a logical development of the Pennsylvania system that it should reach the Atlantic not only at New York and Montauk Point, but at the New England metropolis as well. They feel sure that sooner or later the New York Central will become part of the system.

It is taken as somewhat confirming these rumors that the Pennsylvania is about to increase its capital stock so largely.

"It is a pretty idea in this day of interesting combinations," said a financial expert. "There is a standing policy of harmony which neither party will disturb. When the Pennsylvania has completed its improvements in this city and a working agreement will be made with the Central, to say the least."

"It would be a gigantic undertaking for any company to gather together the scattered stock of the Central and the large holdings of the Vanderbilts and erect a satisfactory absorption of them."

"The New York Central and the Pennsylvania," said another broker, "are working on well-defined plans in this city, each to intensify itself more securely and to perpetuate its identity. The statement that the Vanderbilt family would not be averse to parting with the management of their great system seems to me to be erroneous. Their inborn love of railroad affairs would never permit of the passing of the Central interest in their hands."

Bringing out the harmony idea between the two roads is a dispatch from Philadelphia today in which officers of the Pennsylvania call the reports from Detroit of trouble between the Central and Pennsylvania pure nonsense. It adds that the interests of both roads are too great and too varied to permit of a wrangle between them.

**Forgotten in a Fire.**

Williamsport, Pa. (Special).—Mrs. Daniel Rowland was burned to death and her husband was fatally injured by leaping from a third-story window at Berwick, Pa., in a fire that started in an explosion in a drug store on the first floor, and the firemen did not know anyone lived on the third floor until Rowland jumped from the window. His wife was found dead in her bedroom.

**Daring Escape of Convicts.**

Bay Minette, Ala. (Special).—Frank Edwards, a member of the Miner-Dun-can gang, of Birmingham; Clint Mobley and Gilbert Allen, a one-armed negro, all convicts, made a daring escape from the Hand Lumber Company's stockade at De Live. Edwards secured a pistol and going to one of the guards commanded him to hold up his hands. They began firing together, the guard receiving two slight wounds. Edwards then made a dash for a locomotive standing near, where Mobley was ready at the throttle. With a good start they went through the line to the end of the switch and then took to the woods.

**Feared Blindness, Died.**

Philadelphia (Special).—Made desperate by the knowledge that he would go blind if he followed his trade as a tailor and unable to get work at anything else, Max Horn committed suicide by swallowing carbolic acid in his room in this city. He was 28 years old. He came from New York four months ago.

**Twelve Killed in Explosion.**

Nanimo, B. C. (Special).—A terrific explosion occurred at the Hamilton Powder Company's works, Departure Bay. George Simonetta, James Fulford and 10 Chinamen were killed and one badly—in that of a Chinaman—was recovered. The others were blown to fragments. Gun cotton in a storage house exploded first, the concussion starting other explosions in a drying house 400 feet away, where the chief loss of life occurred. The ground was excavated to a depth of six feet where the building stood. The building was blown into kindling wood and scattered, with fragments of human flesh, over several acres.

**Spark Fell in Powder Keg.**

Pittsburg (Special).—John Mulgrez, a Slav miner, and his wife, living at Surgeon Station, near McDonald, Pa., were fatally injured and their house wrecked by an explosion of a keg of gunpowder. Mulgrez was filling a car when a spark from the kitchen stove fell into the keg. In the explosion which followed Mulgrez was blown through a window, and his wife was hurled 12 feet against a wall. Both were burned from head to foot and died. The house took fire and was badly damaged.

**Values Assets, \$6,000,752.**

New Haven, Conn. (Special).—The annual report of the treasurer of the Yale Corporation for the fiscal year ended July 31, 1902, shows that the permanent funds of the university were increased during the year by the sum of \$150,836 and the building funds by \$203,118. The university also received gifts which have added \$25,143 to its income. The consolidated statement of special and general funds and assets shows a total of \$6,000,752. The university income fell \$1,007,919 behind expenses, the latter amounting to \$760,887.

**GERMANY MAKES DENIAL.**

**Is Not Trying to Buy the Panama Canal—Note Sent to U. S.**

Berlin (By Cable).—The German government has sent a note to the United States relative to the report that Germany is seeking to acquire Colombia's interests in the Panama Canal Company, affirming that the report is utterly baseless, and it is understood, expressing the opinion that Germany's commerce would be benefited by the construction of the canal by the United States.

Washington (Special).—It is learned at the State Department that Ambassador Tower has received from the German Foreign Office an unequivocal denial of the statement that found some currency a few days ago to the effect that the German government was endeavoring to secure control of the Panama Canal franchise. The Ambassador's advice did not credit the German government with any feeling for or against the canal enterprise, but it is gathered that the state of the public mind in Berlin, certainly in commercial circles, is favorable to American connection because of the benefits expected to accrue to German shipping engaged in trade on the Pacific and on the west coast of South America.

It is said at the State Department that there is no change in the status of the negotiations with Colombia respecting the canal. Great impatience is exhibited at the delays and failure of Colombia to accept the terms held out, and pressure is being brought to bear to hasten a conclusion, so that the President, before adjournment of the present Congress, may have acquired control of the Panama route, the Nicaragua routes, and be in a position to begin the work of construction.

**To Get Loan From Seigmans.**

Willemstad, Curacao (By Cable).—United States Minister Bowen is empowered, it is rumored, to close with the Seigmans, a syndicate representing J. & W. Seigmans & Co. to borrow from Venezuela \$2,500,000. The money thus raised is to be used to pay off all foreign claims. The Venezuelan government will guarantee the loan with import duties.

Chicago (Special).—Fire which broke out at an early hour here destroyed a large manufacturing block at Canal and Madison streets, causing a loss estimated at \$100,000, and caused a panic among the guests of the Grand Central Hotel adjoining. For a time it was feared that the hotel would be destroyed, and many inmates fled in scant attire into the street.

He Became a Human Torch. Franklin, Pa. (Special).—During a shortage of coal the Eclipse Oil Works has been compelled to use oil fuel. While firing the boilers F. J. Peters' clothes became saturated with oil, and later, when he opened the furnace door, the flames leaped through the door and set fire to his clothes, burning him so badly that he died.

**Eleven Boys and Three Junk Dealers**

were arrested in Shamokin in connection with the iron from the Shamokin Wagon Works.

Five additional free rural mail delivery routes will be placed in operation on February 2, having the York Post Office as their distribution center.

At the annual meeting of the Yardley Postoffice Club, Irwin Aaron was elected president, Edward V. Conly secretary, and Thomas S. Caldwell treasurer.