

### MINE OPERATORS' PLAN OUTLINED.

#### WAGE STATEMENT DOUBTED.

Testimony of the Workers All in, and Owners Began Their Fight Before Strike Commission.

The arguments of the coal operators were outlined before the strike commission at Scranton, Pa., after the mine workers had closed their case, December 17. Former Congressman Simon P. Wolverton, counsel for the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Company, said that the large operators would attempt to prove that the United Mine Workers of America are attempting to form a monopoly of the labor supply needed in mining of coal, that, after the settlement of 1909, there was a concerted effort on the part of the miners to restrict the output in order to prevent the producers from accumulating a stock of coal to meet emergencies, such as floods and strikes; that the rate of wages in the anthracite region is actually higher than that in the soft coal region; that the system by which coal is weighed at present is the only system practicable; and that the miners and laborers do not work eight hours, but ordinarily less than six hours. The independent operators in their statement, insist that the miners' union shall not discriminate against or refuse to work with non-union men, and that the wage question must be subjected to an examination of conditions at each colliery. In regard to the wage question, the statement says: "We think the commission, before taking any action looking to an increase of wages, should carefully consider upon whom such increase must fall. Of course, any increase in cost of production ultimately rests upon the consumer. There is no authority to tax one class of the poor in order to contribute to the comfort of another." The attorneys for the miners took exception to the wage statements handed to the commission by the Pennsylvania Coal Company. The alleged unfairness of the wage statement came to the notice of the commission as a result of its inquiry into the child labor question. Several little girls testified that they worked all night in a silk mill in order to help their fathers along, who were employed in the mines and received poor pay. Everett Warren, who represents the Erie Company, which controls the Pennsylvania Coal Company, handed to the commission a memorandum showing that one father last year received about \$1,400 for himself and laborers, and that the other father received \$1,600 for himself and laborers. The miners placed the two parents on the stand, and they swore that the earnings mentioned was divided among four to six men. In reply, General Manager W. A. May of the Pennsylvania Coal Company said: "The company does not keep a record of the individuals in a contract or the number. It only keeps the names of the men in whose name the place is run. It can be possible that in that place there are more men than the company has any cognizance of, but that is entirely outside its province. The company, he said, does not pay the laborer, it only pays the man in whose name the place appears."

### AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

In the Senate, speaking on isthmian canal, Mr. Morgan mildly criticized Attorney General Knox. The powers asked President Roosevelt to arbitrate the Venezuelan dispute, and he suggested The Hague tribunal. Congressman Burton defended rivers and harbors committee from attacks following opposition to improvement of Ohio river. The war department announced that Chaffee will succeed Young as commander of the army after the latter retires, he to succeed Miles. The secretary of the navy has contracted with the Bethlehem Steel Co. for the manufacture of 12 four-inch rapid-fire guns and mounts complete, at its bid of \$5,500 for each gun and mount. While on his way to the White House postmaster General Payne suffered an attack of acute indigestion. He was taken to his hotel and two physicians were summoned, who afforded him relief. General Tasker H. Bliss, who was sent to Havana to aid Minister Spence in drafting a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba, has delivered to Secretary Hay the treaty signed in Havana. The Italian ambassador informed Secretary Hay that Italy had joined Great Britain and Germany in the operations against Venezuela. He requested that Mr. Bowen assume charge of the Italian interests in Venezuela. The President sent to the Senate the reciprocity treaty recently negotiated between the United States and Cuba. The treaty was received by the Senate in executive session and was referred to the committee on foreign relations without being read. The State Department has been notified that the French claim is that France should be privileged to come into the combination and divide Venezuela customs receipts or whatever other means of revenue might be selected on even terms with other nations. The secretary of state has terminated a famous extradition case by issuing a warrant to the French authorities for the release of Louis Raoul, who is charged with the embezzlement of several million francs from a great French corporation in whose employ he had been. The state department has received from United States Consul Heimrod at Apia, Samoa, a report that on November 2 last two supposedly extinct craters in the volcano of Manga Apia, on the island of Savaii, broke into violent eruptions.

### CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

#### LVII. CONGRESS.

##### Ratified Spanish Treaty.

When the bill to admit New Mexico, Oklahoma and Arizona as States was called up in the Senate Tuesday Mr. Dillingham, Vermont, concluded his speech in opposition, and it was agreed that there would be no further discussion until the Senate reassembles on January 5. A joint resolution was adopted appropriating \$3,000 for the purchase of a bronze bust of the late President McKinley. Mr. Morgan, Alabama, asked that his resolution fixing the salaries of isthmian canal commissioners at \$5,000 a year be referred to the committee on inter-oceanic canals, which was done. In executive session the Senate ratified the treaty of friendship with Spain.

##### Bureau Transferred.

The House Tuesday passed the bill transferring from the treasury department to the department of agriculture the power to establish regulations for the suppression of contagious diseases among live stock. Mr. Martin, of South Dakota, introduced a bill making October 1 the anniversary of the discovery of America, a legal public holiday, to be known as Columbus day.

##### Passed Deficiency Bill.

The Senate Wednesday passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$139,849,000, which had previously passed the House. An urgent deficiency bill of \$1,140,000, including \$500,000 to aid in eradicating the foot and mouth disease among cattle, was also passed. Mr. Burrows, Michigan, resigned from the committee on military affairs, so that Mr. Alger might have a committee appointment. Mr. Depew, New York, introduced a bill providing that emergency currency may be supplied by the treasury to any National bank with a capital of not less than \$50,000 to the extent of 50 per cent of the bank's capital. The extra capital is to be supplied only in case of a stringency in the money market. Eulogistic addresses were made in memory of the late Mr. Sewell, of New Jersey, and the Senate adjourned to Monday.

##### Funds for Anti-Trust.

The House Wednesday passed the legislative judicial and executive appropriation bill with an amendment appropriating \$500,000 to enable the attorney general to prosecute the violations of the Sherman anti-trust law. The bill prohibits military and naval bands from competing with civilian bands was defeated by a vote of 50 to 43.

##### Pure Food Bill.

Representative Dalzell presided over the House Thursday in the absence of Speaker Henderson. A resolution was passed calling upon the secretary of state for the facts regarding the Venezuelan situation and a statement of its effect upon the Monroe doctrine. The bill to reduce the tariff on imports from the Philippines to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates was passed after a motion for free trade with the Philippines had been defeated by a vote of 91 to 122. The pure food bill, to prevent adulteration, misbranding and imitation of foods, beverages, candies, drugs and condiments, was taken up and discussed until the close of the day.

##### Passes Pure Food Bill.

The House Friday passed the pure food bill by a vote of 72 to 21. It prohibits interstate commerce in any article of food or any drug that is adulterated or misbranded.

##### Adjourned for Holidays.

Both branches of Congress adjourned on Saturday to January 5, after passing the conference report on the bill to pay the expenses of the coal strike commission.

##### Hyndman Bank Closed.

Comptroller of the Currency Ridgely has closed the National bank of South Pennsylvania, Hyndman, Pa., and has appointed Walter R. Mason, bank examiner, receiver. The failure of the bank is said to have been due to losses sustained through loans made to officers and directors.

##### Bloodless Surgery.

Dr. Adolf Lorenz, of Vienna, conducted his second clinic in New York city at the Polytechnic Medical college and hospital. Two young sufferers from congenital hip dislocation were operated on by Dr. Lorenz. One of the children was suffering from dislocation of both hips. The left hip was reduced in four minutes and the dislocation of the right hip in eight minutes.

##### Guarding Our Rights.

Minister Bowen cables from Caracas that the guns of the allied fleet which bombarded Puerto Cabello were directed entirely at the fortifications and not at the town. This statement relieves the affair of the suspicion that it constituted a violation of international law, because 25 hours' notice was not served of the bombardment.

##### Looted a Bank of \$3,000.

The bank at Clarence, Ill., was robbed of \$3,000 by a gang who cut the telegraph and telephone wires to prevent an alarm being sent. Citizens were awakened by the explosion and chased the robbers, but they escaped on a hand car.

##### New Trial for Howard.

The court of appeals at Frankfort, Ky., has granted a new trial to James Howard, who is under a sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of Governor William Goebel.

##### Big Increase in Earnings.

It is stated that the earnings of the United States Steel Corporation last month were in the neighborhood of \$11,000,000, or about \$1,200,000 in excess of the amount earned during the same period last year.

### VENEZUELA: BLOCKADE DECLARED.

#### GRACE ALLOWED.

Germany and Great Britain Formally Announce the Closing of Ports to All Shipping.

The official proclamation of the blockade of Venezuelan ports was gazetted in England and became officially effective December 20, 1902. Foreign Office, Dec. 20, 1902.—It is hereby notified that the United States of Venezuela have failed to comply with the demands of his majesty's government, a blockade by his majesty's naval forces of the ports of La Guayra, Caranero, Guanta, Cumana and Carupano and the mouths of the Orinoco is declared, and such blockade will be effectively maintained from and after the 20th of December, subject to the allowance of the following days of grace: For vessels sailing before the date of this notification from West Indian ports and ports on the East coast of the continent of America, 10 days for steamers and 20 days for sailing vessels. From all other ports, 20 days for steamers and 40 days for sailing vessels. For vessels lying in the ports now declared to be blockaded, 15 days. Vessels which attempt to violate the blockade will render themselves liable to all measures authorized by law of nations and by the respective treaties between his majesty and the different neutral powers. The foreign office says the blockade will not be relaxed until the powers enforcing their claims agree on a method for the arbitration of their respective cases and Venezuela shows a disposition to act sincerely. Stress is laid on the difficulty in view of the diversity of the claims in deciding on a method of presentation and on the proximity of the negotiations which will be involved before a settlement is in sight. It is not definitely decided whether separate cases can be embodied in one document should the projected arbitration take definite shape. The German government at Berlin December 20 published a decree embodying the conditions of the blockade of Germany's portion of the Venezuelan coast. It was practically identical with that issued by Great Britain, and referred especially to the ports to Porto Cabello and Maritabo.

#### MURDERED FOR MONEY.

Michigan Farmer's Wife Killed While Alone—Laborer Arrested.

Mrs. Robert Garrison, a middle-aged woman, wife of a farmer near Bedford, Barry county, Michigan, was murdered, and John Brantlinger, a laborer, was arrested. Mrs. Garrison, the woman's husband, a short time ago sold his farm for \$1,400, and it is supposed that robbery was the primal cause of the murder.

#### BIG STEEL MERGER.

U. S. Steel Corporation Takes Over the Union Company.

The deal merging the Union Steel Company and its recently acquired Sharon Steel Company properties, with the United States Steel Corporation has been concluded. Judge E. H. Gary, chairman of the executive committee of the United States Steel Corporation, announced officially that the company had been taken over, and that it would be paid for by a bond issue of \$45,000,000, the bonds to be issued against the properties of the new companies and guaranteed by the parent corporation, both for principle and interest.

#### WAS INSURED FOR \$340,000.

Death of a Louisville Man May Have Been an Accident.

R. C. Whyne, who was found dead at Louisville, Ky., in the vicinity of Jacob Park, with a gunshot wound in his breast, carried life insurance of \$340,000, and had applications pending for \$50,000 more. Coroner Kelly says the case will require exhaustive investigation. Near Whyne's body, but on the opposite side of a wire fence, was a shotgun with one barrel empty and the other loaded and cocked. His friends and family declare his death was due to an accident, and that the gun was discharged while he was climbing through the fence. There is no suspicion of murder, but he may have committed suicide, as he was a sufferer from rheumatism.

#### PARENTS TO BLAME.

Factory Inspector Claims That Perjury Was Committed.

Factory Inspector Campbell at Harrisburg, Pa., has received a report from Deputy Factory Inspector E. W. Bishop, whom he sent to Scranton to ascertain if the girl employees of the silk mill told the truth when they testified before the coal strike commission that they were under 13 years of age, and yet were allowed to work. Mr. Bishop reports that he secured the certificates sworn to by the parents of these girls before the children were allowed to work, and all showed that the parents represented their age to be over the legal limit.

#### Big Increase in Capital.

The Indianapolis, Lebanon and Frankfort Traction Company filed notice with the secretary of state changing its name to the Indianapolis and Northwestern Traction Company, and increasing its capital from \$25,000 to \$250,000. The capital may be increased to \$3,000,000.

#### Five Crows Is Dead.

Five Crows, a noted Umatilla Indian chief, has been found dead near Athena, Oregon.

### LATEST NEWS NOTES.

An attorney of Canton, O., sued a barber for \$200 damages for an inartistic hair-cut.

Secretary Shaw told Chicago business men new currency law is absolutely safe.

The New York board of aldermen voted \$250,000 to buy coal for the poor of the city.

Scott Bishop, colored, was lynched at Marbury, Ala., for the murder of Wade Hicks.

General S. B. M. Young was chief speaker at Cleveland chamber of commerce banquet.

A great snowstorm occurred in the West, trains being stalled and business interfered with.

United States army and navy officers said to be implicated in smuggling goods to Porto Rico.

Dr. Harper announced Christmas gift of \$1,000,000 from John D. Rockefeller to Chicago university.

Five children were killed and their mother badly hurt by explosion of acetylene gas at Port Lee, N. J.

Thomas Tobin was convicted in New York of murder in the first degree for killing James B. Craft.

Interstate commerce commission has started an inquiry into causes of recent increases in freight rates.

Lieutenant Marburg Johnston, of the navy, was sent to Caracas to assist United States Minister Bowen.

Italy ordered her minister, Signor Riva, to leave Caracas, Venezuela, and go on board the cruiser Giovanni Bausan.

President Roosevelt has signed the commission of A. B. Anderson as United States district judge for Indiana.

Sixty persons were hurt by the broken section of a freight train striking a street car at Weehawken, N. J.

The steamer Silvertown, laying the telegraph cable from San Francisco to Honolulu, is making eight knots an hour.

Comptroller Ridgely told New York State Bankers' association that the law makes it too difficult to retire bank notes.

Admiral Higginson, with four battleships, will spend holidays at Trinidad, within easy reach of Venezuela trouble zone.

The United States government has for the second time used arbitration upon England and Germany in Venezuelan dispute.

United States Steel Corporation has arranged for heavy increased production in Marquette range or property; Minnesota's output.

Imports of raw silk from Japan, valued at \$5,000,000, have passed through Ogdensburg, N. Y., coming from San Francisco by way of Canada.

Mathias H. Utzler, pleaded guilty at Hastings, Mich., to murdering Mrs. Robert Garrison and was sentenced to solitary confinement for life.

A government official, marine corps officer and another person were arrested, accused of smuggling liquors into Porto Rico on government steamers.

J. D. O'Haire, one of the locators of the Portland mine at Cripple Creek, Col., has filed a suit at Colorado Springs to recover \$3,000,000 from the company.

Louis Stern, a note broker, was arrested in Chicago, Ill., while, it is asserted, he was attempting to dispose of alleged forged commercial paper amounting to \$7,500.

The last steamer from New York which will reach Europe before Christmas, the St. Paul, has sailed with \$460,615 in money orders payable in 15 European countries.

Beef packers in suit in Chicago deny that the United States has jurisdiction against them under the interstate commerce law for discrimination in rates or because of a combine.

General Manager G. L. Potter, of the Baltimore and Ohio road, announced the appointment of M. L. Byers, engineer of maintenance of way, as assistant to the general manager.

City Marshal R. W. Coulter and Justice A. E. Musgrave, at Farmington, Ia., were fatally wounded by Geo. Stillwell, a deputy fish commissioner, who was afterward shot to death by a posse.

The French authorities are convinced that the death of Mrs. Ellen Gore was accidental and have decided to drop the case against Dr. Rydzewski, in whose rooms in Paris she was shot.

The funeral of Mrs. U. S. Grant occurred in Washington, at which the President attended; the body was placed in the Grant sarcophagus, in New York, by the side of her husband's remains.

A British cruiser captured a Venezuelan blockade runner laden with German goods, and another British cruiser captured two schooners belonging to a French citizen, but flying the Venezuelan flag.

Express Messenger Colson was killed and Mail Clerks Kelly and Riggs severely hurt by the fall of a train on the Alabama Great Southern railroad through a trestle 70 miles south of Birmingham, Ala.

Governor Savage, of Nebraska, gave Daily Lawrence, aged 10 years, a Christmas present in the shape of a pardon for his father, who is serving a three years' sentence in the State penitentiary for embezzlement.

Louise K. Eames, claiming to be the only child of the late Lester H. Eames, of Ottawa, Ill., has asked a Chicago court to nullify an agreement by which she accepted \$10,000 to relinquish her claim on his \$1,000,000 estate.

The Superior Board of Health of Mexico City, Mexico, has sent a commission to study the mysterious disease which has so much alarmed the people of the Pacific port city of Mazatlan.

### THE FLEET NEAR STORM CENTER.

#### PLAN OF ADMIRAL DEWEY

Fighting Vessels Have Been Assigned to Various Places on the Continent—Plan Approved.

The navy department has contributed the most important developments in the Venezuelan situation in the form of a cablegram from Admiral Dewey announcing the proposed itinerary of the vessels of his fleet during the Christmas holidays. The plan provides for no undue concentration of ships along the Venezuelan coast, and so prudently and advisedly have its details been drawn up that Secretary Moody cabled to the Admiral the department's approval of his orders. This will set at rest the rumors that the United States contemplates the proposed Venezuela situation by dispatching a large naval force to La Guayra as an offset to the allied fleet. Admiral Dewey's cablegram, dated San Juan, is to this effect: "Proposed itinerary of vessels for Christmas holidays: 'Kearsarge, Alabama, Massachusetts, Iowa, Scorpion, to Trinidad; Illinois, Indiana, Hist, to St. Thomas; Texas to Pointe-a-Pitre; Chicago, Newark, Eagle, to Chicago; San Francisco, Albany, Wasp, to Mayaguez; Cincinnati, Atlanta, Prairie, tugs, torpedo boats, to San Juan; Culgoa, to Mayaguez and San Juan; Olympia, Nashville and Machias, to St. Kitts; Detroit, to Antigua; Mayflower and Vixen, to Puerto Rican waters and vicinity, and Dolphin to Antigua and vicinity." In reply Secretary Moody sent the following cablegram: "Carry out proposed itinerary. Merry Christmas." According to the approved plans, the principal fighting ships of Admiral Dewey's fleet will rendezvous at the island of Trinidad, right off the coast of Venezuela, and at St. Thomas. Rear Admiral Higginson, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, will have command of the battleship fleet at Trinidad in his flagship Kearsarge, with Rear Admiral Sumner commanding the South Atlantic squadron on his flagship Iowa as second in command. The fleet at St. Thomas, which includes two battleships, will be under the command of Rear Admiral Crowlshield, commanding the European squadron, on his flagship Illinois. The fleet of cruisers and smaller vessels which will anchor at St. Kitts will be in command of Rear Admiral Coghlan, commanding the Caribbean division, on his flagship Olympia. Admiral Dewey will retain the converted cruiser Mayflower as his flagship, and will spend most of the ten days' holiday at San Juan. It is stated at the navy department that the delay in the departure of the battleship Wisconsin from San Francisco for the Puget Sound naval station at Bremerton, Washington, where she is to be fitted out for service on the Asiatic station, was in order to await the arrival of her new commander, Captain B. H. McCalla, who was ordered from Washington for that duty.

#### CAPITAL \$5,000,000.

Company Promises Great Development of the North Dakota.

Great development of North Dakota's coal fields is promised by the Dakota Fuel Company recently organized under the laws of New Jersey and capitalized at \$5,000,000. A combination of all the coal interests in North Dakota, with the possible exception of the Washburn mine at Wilton, is planned. Among those interested are Harriman, of the New York Central, and Curtis, of the National Paper Company.

#### MARCONI SUCCEEDS.

Sends Wireless Message From Cape Breton to England.

William Marconi sent the following dispatch from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, to New York: "I beg to inform you that I have established wireless telegraph communications between Cape Breton, Canada, and Cornwall, England, with complete success. Inauguratory messages, including one from the governor general of Canada to King Edward VII., have already been transmitted and forwarded to the Kings of England and Italy."

#### ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING.

Running in Immigrants Afflicted With Contagious Diseases.

Thomas Nehas, a merchant of Monongahela, Pa., and a Syrian named Elysiel Ecece, were arrested at Niagara Falls by Immigration Inspector O'Brien while attempting to cross from Canada, and Nehas held for the action of the United States grand jury on a charge of smuggling into this country foreigners afflicted with a contagious disease. United States Commissioner Pound found that Ecece is suffering from trachoma, a malignant disease of the eyes, and ordered him to be deported.

#### Limit for Office-Holders.

Senator Scott, of West Virginia, introduced a bill in Congress amending the civil service law to provide that all persons employed in the classified service shall serve six years and shall be eligible to another six-year term only.

#### Will Pay in Silver.

Unofficial advices have reached Washington that China intends to pay the next installment of the "Boxer" indemnity in silver, being driven to this course by the fact that all of her revenues are payable in silver and the great internal financial straits makes it impossible to obtain gold.

#### Italy Sends Another Warship.

The Italian cruiser Agordat has been ordered to proceed at once for Venezuela.

### ENGINE HIT TRAIN.

Flyer Couldn't Be Stopped in Time to Prevent Collision in California—Eighteen Dead.

As a result of a rear-end collision between the Stockton flyer and the "Owl" train on the Southern Pacific at Byron, California, 18 deaths have been recorded, and there are fears that the total will soon reach 20. Most of the wounded passengers, who were too severely injured to be taken to their homes, were taken to the Southern Pacific hospital at San Francisco, and on the way to that place five victims died. Twenty-four persons are injured. Edward Joyce, fireman of the Stockton flyer, in a statement explaining the collision, said: "We saw the flagman's light ahead of us and put on the brakes at once. They seemed to work well enough, but we could not stop in time to avoid smashing into the rear of the 'Owl' train. The engine went right through the cars." Ten persons were killed outright and the others succumbed to their injuries. Thirteen of the dead have been identified as follows: Elizabeth L. Smith, Fresno, Cal.; Clarence D. Oluffs, Fresno; Miss Birdie Elliott, San Francisco; Mabel Vezoy, Modesto, Cal.; George Sessins, Oakland, Cal.; Charles Owens, Fresno; Miss Brown, Fresno; Robert Remick, San Francisco; Len Irwin, Oakland; Tung Tia Gong, a Chinese girl, of San Francisco; Richard Post, Fowler, Cal.; Mina Magowa, a Japanese girl; and Mr. L. Temple, Oakland. The unidentified dead include one white man, evidently a sailor; two Chinese, one Japanese woman and a Japanese child. The dead were taken to Martinez and an inquest was held. Most of the corpses were terribly mutilated. This made the work of identification quite difficult. The injured were taken to Oakland. Most of them are reported recovering, and no further casualties are anticipated.

#### New Mining Town.

A syndicate of Pennsylvanians has bought for \$1 an acre 6,000 acres of land in Cumberland county, Tenn., that is underlain by two veins of high-grade coal, each over six feet deep. The syndicate bought for the purpose of establishing a mining town.

#### Ingleside School Partially Burned.

Ingleside school, a fashionable seminary for young women, at New Milford, Conn., was partially destroyed by a fire of unknown origin, and caused damage estimated at \$40,000. The servants were the only persons there, the students being away on their Christmas vacations.

#### Mail Car Burned.

A carload of mail for the West on the New York Central train that left New York at 8:45 Sunday morning was burned between Peekskill and Highland. Only 20 or 30 out of 800 pouches were saved.

#### CABLE FLASHES.

A semi-official announcement from Rome places the Italian claims against Venezuela at \$2,000,000.

General Nord, having been acclaimed president of Haiti by the army, took possession of the national palace at Port au Prince, December 18.

The Times in London, England, published a poem by Rudyard Kipling, which is a strong protest against the Anglo-German agreement with regard to Venezuela.

Advices of a semi-official character have been received that the Colombian army officers at Panama and Colon are steadily but quietly making ready for an invasion of Nicaragua to seize canal routes.

President Castra has given Herbert W. Bowen, United States minister at Caracas, plenary powers to effect a settlement on behalf of Venezuela with Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

The Dutch cruiser De Runtjen, which it was proposed to send from The Hague to the West Indies, has been ordered to proceed to Venezuela to protect Dutch interests there.

The budget statement of Italy for 1901-02 shows a surplus of \$6,500,000 after an expenditure of \$4,000,000 on railroads, \$2,000,000 on the China expedition and placing \$2,800,000 in the sinking fund.

The American commercial chamber, now forming in Berlin, Germany, is modeled after like institutions in London and Paris. Its main purpose will be the exploitation of American trade in the German-speaking countries.

The German government has not yet replied to President Castro's offer of arbitration in Venezuela, being still in correspondence with the British government on the subject. It is intimated that Germany's reply is not likely to be ready for some days.

General Botha writes from Holland that he, General Dewet and General De la Rey propose to visit the United States after they have conferred with Chamberlain in South Africa. He says nobody in the United States is authorized to collect money for the Boers.

The city of Andijan, Russian Turkestan, a community of 30,000 inhabitants, was totally destroyed by an earthquake. It is not yet known how many lives were lost. Shocks were felt in New Marguelan and the surrounding villages, and the railway at Andijan was destroyed for a considerable distance.

News received from Sijmsi, China, states that Tung-Fu-Siang, the exiled Chinese commander whose execution was demanded by the powers, but who was supposed to be protected by the Dowager Empress, is mobilizing in Kan Su 10,000 well-equipped troops for the purpose of extermination of foreigners in the provinces of Shen Si and Kan Su and the seizure of San Fu.