

The News of the Week.

On December 12 it was reported that details of the destruction of the Venezuelan vessels by the British-German fleet had reached Caracas to the effect that thirteen boats manned by British and German seamen had entered the harbor off the Venezuelan ships and then proceeded to the docks, forced the sailors off the Venezuelan ships and then proceeded to destroy the vessels. On the next day, December 13, it was reported that a British steamer had been seized near Puerto Cabello and pillaged, the captain and crew being taken into custody, but afterwards released. President Castro of Venezuela has issued orders recalling all consuls stationed in British and German possessions and this is regarded as a serious indication of trouble.

It was announced from Bethlehem, Pa., on December 13 that William Chapman, who was dispatched from England in 1842 by Sir John Francis to prospect for slate and discovered the now famous slate belt line in Pennsylvania, died today of pneumonia, aged 87.

On December 13 it was officially announced from Vienna that Herr Herenglmunger von Haven, the Austro-Hungarian minister at Washington, has been raised to the rank of an ambassador.

An interesting dispatch came from Atlanta, Ga., on December 13 to the effect that the supreme court of Georgia today handed down a decision which is regarded by Christian scientists as a vindication of their doctrine. A citizen 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 today reversed the decision of the lower court, holding that failure to give medicine to children when ill is not a violation of the laws of the state.

On December 13 it was reported from Richmond, Va., by the Associated press, that suits for \$5,000 each against the governor, all of the members of the constitutional convention in the eastern district of Virginia and election officers, on behalf of the negroes disfranchised by the new Virginia constitution, were filed in the United States court today here and at Norfolk. All were made defendants, collectively and individually. Edgar Poe Lee of Richmond and Anthony Y. Pinner, a Norfolk letter carrier, are plaintiffs. Similar suits are to be filed next week in the United States courts of the western district against members of the convention living in that section of the state.

A Chester, Vt., dispatch, under date of December 13, reported that government cattle agents, have found that foot and mouth disease prevails among the cattle of this section of Vermont to an extent not previously suspected. Hundreds of cattle are infected and orders to kill the diseased animals are already being carried out. The government agents say that about 500 head of cattle, besides sheep and swine, will be slaughtered as fast as the men can accomplish the work.

Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, wife of former President Grant, died in Washington, D. C., on December 14. Mrs. Grant was born in 1826, was for eight years mistress of the White House, and has always been greatly loved and

revered by the American people. She leaves four children, three sons and one daughter.

A complication in the Venezuelan situation is imminent in the determination of Italy to press her claims against the republic. It is reported from Rome that two Italian warships are on their way to join the foreign forces off the coast of Venezuela and the situation has come to be critical.

Each day witnesses some new development in the Venezuelan situation. On December 15 it was announced that it is regarded as probable that Ecuador may take a hand in the war against the British-German forces as patriotic demonstrations against the action of these powers have taken place in that republic and strong expressions of sympathy with Venezuela have been made. As to the situation in Venezuela itself, it is said that President Castro is straining every nerve to prepare for a conflict and in case of battle Venezuela is supplied with several thousand firearms and some cannon. All hope of settling the differences through arbitration has not yet been abandoned, however, and it is generally hoped that a peaceful solution will be found.

The suffering among the poor and unemployed in Austria is aggravated greatly this year on account of the severity of the weather and on this account partly thousands of Austrian workmen are leaving for the United States. In some quarters it is feared that Austria will suffer from famine before the winter is over.

Heavy rains or snow storms were reported from various parts of the United States on December 15, in some places being of such severity as to cause great damage to traffic.

On December 15 it was reported from New York that a number of banks of that city and J. P. Morgan & Co. have formed a pool of \$50,000,000 to lend in the money market, in event of actual emergency. The following will manage the pool money: J. Pierpont Morgan, George F. Baker, president of the First National bank, and James Stillman, president of the National City bank. Following the precedent of the late F. D. Trappen, who managed such pools in similar cases, the money will be put out on the "market" in unlimited amount. In this way the interest rate will be kept down to the legal rate or lower if it is considered necessary.

On December 15 a report from Port au Prince, Hayti, was to the effect that the army under General Alexis Nord has occupied the arsenal and fortifications here without resistance. M. Heredna has been elected president of the senate. The Haytien congress will convene December 18 for the purpose of electing a president of the republic. General Nord will be M. Senegue's only opponent for the presidency. The latter controls a majority of the congress, but it is considered that the numerous forces under General Nord will have a favorable effect on the balloting.

The court-martial case against Major Glenn of the Sixth infantry which has been reopened again in Manila is arousing a great deal of interest throughout the country. The court has decided to summon Generals Chaffee and Smith from the United States

to testify as to the orders given regarding the character and conduct of the campaign in Samar.

It was reported from Portland, Ore., on December 15, that Solomon Hirsch formerly United States minister to Turkey, died in Portland at the age of 63 years. Mr. Hirsch was appointed minister to Turkey by President Harrison in 1889 and served three years. He was also prominent in politics in Oregon and was candidate for United States senator in 1889, lacking one vote of election.

On December 16 the Italian minister at Caracas presented Italy's ultimatum to Venezuela. It was also reported that both Spain and Belgium have asked that in case the claims of other foreign powers are paid by Venezuela, the same treatment shall be accorded to them. A London dispatch also intimates that the recent visit of Emperor William to England was for the purpose of arranging the British-German alliance in this matter of pressing the Venezuelan claims.

It was announced on December 16 that the United States Steel corporation has purchased two more large concerns, the transaction involving a bond issue of \$45,000,000.

A company with \$4,500,000 capital has been formed at Los Angeles, Cal., for the purpose of controlling the orange trade. The company was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey and it is said that President Fay denies that the new corporation is a trust and says it was formed "for the purpose of bringing together certain eastern and California interests."

The coal miners closed their side of the case before the anthracite coal strike on December 16 and the operators opened theirs on the next day.

One interesting feature of the case is the charge that the operators have presented misleading figures in regard to wages of the miners.

News from Venezuela under date of December 18 asserts that a decision has been reached at Caracas that the difficulty be submitted to arbitration and thus prevent war. It is regarded as probable that United States Minister Bowen will be asked to serve as a member of the court to adjust the dispute in question, and this belief is strengthened by the reports that England is desirous of peace and wishes to co-operate with this country.

Broken Promises.

The national republican platform in 1896 declared for admission of "all the territories" and the national republican platform of 1900 declared specifically for the admission of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma. But the omnibus statehood bill discloses once more that republicans pay little heed to platform pledges.—Columbus (O.) Press.

He Knew.

Representative MacCartney, of the Massachusetts legislature, tells the story of an associate who, on being elected to the general court of the state for the first time, was very greatly impressed with the dignity of his office. "One night he was sleeping soundly when his wife heard, or thought she heard, a noise. She tried to arouse her spouse and found it far from easy. Giving him a hard shake, she whispered:

"John, John, wake up! There are thieves in the house!"

"No, no, Maria, you are mistaken," he answered; "there may be one or two in the senate, but there are none in the house!"

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