

settling there.

The American Free Trade league held a meeting in Boston, Mass., on December 30, at which meeting the following resolutions were adopted: "Whereas, the tariff duties upon beef and coal, by assisting the extortions of monopoly or by withholding relief from them, have proved a serious hardship for our people, and, Whereas, such abundant evidence is easily accessible to congress that investigation need not cause delay in the removal of this hardship. Resolved, that as American citizens we ask that the tariff duty on beef and coal be now removed. Resolved, that if the tariff duties in general be postponed, we urge that an exception be made in the case of these duties upon beef and coal and that they be removed and those articles placed on the free list at the present session of congress. Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to each United States senator and member of the house of representatives."

It was announced on December 31 that President Castro of Venezuela had signified his willingness to submit the dispute between his country and the European powers to The Hague tribunal. This is interpreted as clearing the way for the arbitration of the controversy and much satisfaction is expressed in various quarters as to the outcome.

United States Minister Squires at Havana recently reported that no opposition is expected to the passage of the reciprocity treaty with Cuba. This view is also confirmed by the statement of President Palma in regard to the matter.

According to a New York dispatch the Erie Railroad company and the Pennsylvania Coal company have been sued by 22 residents of New York city for damages aggregating \$1,100,000. The suit is made on the claim that these 22 persons were forcibly taken to the mines against their will and compelled to work, taking the places of the striking miners.

An interesting opinion was delivered by the grand jury of Kings county in the case of the Brooklyn Transit company. This opinion was to the effect that municipal ownership is the only solution of the difficulties in which the company is placed and the jury also expressed the opinion that the roads could be operated at a profit on a 3-cent fare basis.

On December 31 it was reported from Wellfleet, Mass., that there has been an exchange of messages by the Marconi system between the Wellfleet station and Poldhu, Cornwall. Wellfleet is 600 miles further from Poldhu than the Tablehead station at Cape Breton, N. S.

A dispatch from San Francisco, Cal. under date of December 23, says: The transport Thomas brings news of a new cholera outbreak in Manila. When the Thomas left, thirty cases of cholera were being reported daily. Army surgeons arriving on the Thomas say the disease is raging unchecked in the southern provinces. In Iloilo the death rate is very heavy and the authorities seem powerless to check the epidemic.

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The Week at Washington.

An Associated press cablegram from Rome relating to the attitude of this country toward the arbitration of the Venezuelan dispute was given out on December 27 as follows:

Ambassador Meyer today presented to the foreign office the president's reply on the Venezuelan arbitration.

The president says that although he is very much gratified at the confidence the powers have shown in him by choosing him as arbitrator, which position he would have accepted if there were no other means of solving the question, he thinks it better to submit the case to The Hague tribunal, especially as all the powers concerned are willing.

The president adds that, as there are questions of national policy involved, after a thorough consideration and in accordance with all the sentiment of powers concerned, who have shown an honorable spirit of mutual consideration and moderation, he is glad to be informed that they all have agreed to submit the question to The Hague tribunal.

It is said that Germany is disappointed because of Mr. Roosevelt's decision in the matter, but no doubt is expressed but that the trouble will be referred to The Hague.

The senate committee on military affairs is investigating the method of army appointments. Much complaint has been made on this subject, it being claimed that injustice is being done officers in the matter of promotions. It is expected that the committee will finish the investigation before congress opens again and be ready to report on the subject.

It was reported on December 30 that Justice Claiborne of the district supreme court is engaged in hearing a petition filed by Antonio M. Ycaza, a young Filipino, who is seeking to obtain naturalization papers. He came to this country after signing the treaty of peace between the United States and Spain. He applied for naturalization papers in this district. The local law requires that all applicants for citizenship must renounce allegiance to his country. He had no country to renounce and on this ground he was denied naturalization papers by the clerk of the district supreme court.

Secretary Root has referred to the civil courts of the Philippines for decision the controversy between the two elements in the Catholic church in the islands. The contention is over some property which is claimed by the Catholic church and which one branch of the church organization held. The case was first referred to Governor Taft, who held that the question was one for adjustment by the civil courts and this objection was confirmed by Secretary Root.

On December 31 the state department was officially advised through its fiscal agents in China that the second installment of the Chinese indemnity fund must be paid in silver or on a silver basis. This amounts to \$496,098 to this country. Some doubt has been expressed as to the ability of China to pay her obligations even on this basis and it may be necessary for the powers interested to submit the whole case to The Hague for adjustment.

An interesting feature of the cabinet meeting on January 2 was the decision to close permanently the post-office at Indianola, Miss., unless the people of that town consent to the reinstatement of the colored post-

mistress, Minnie M. Cox, who was forced to resign some time ago. The matter has been investigated by the postmaster general and this decision was made.

On January 2 it was announced that one hundred thousand tons of breadstuffs must be imported from wheat producing centers to Australia during the coming season to meet harvest deficiencies, says United States Consul Goding at Newcastle, in a statement dated November 11. The crop in New South Wales, he says, will not reach 50 per cent of the quantity reaped last year, and Victoria will require imports of 3,637,920 bushels of wheat to supply her needs. The situation is not so bad in South Australia, though the crop there is less than last year.

About 15,000 tons of California flour are afloat for New South Wales, but the consul says the price of California flour has risen so greatly that the effect will be to divert a great deal of the trade to Canada, which raises hard wheat of a class well suited to mix with California flour.

Senator Hoar made public on January 2 his anti-trust bill which he asked leave before the senate adjourned for the holidays to introduce. The bill goes to the committee on judiciary. In brief, it appropriates \$500,000 for the enforcement of the provisions of the act; corporations must file sworn statements with the interstate commerce commission showing capital stock, its value, amount paid on it, dividends declared, etc., and for failure to comply with all these provisions its right to do interstate business will be forfeited.

The monthly statement of the public debt was issued recently and shows that on December 31, 1902, the debt less cash in the treasury amounted to \$947,164,679 which is a substantial increase for the month.

The debt is recapitulated as follows: Interest-bearing debt, \$914,541,240; debt bearing no interest, \$935,777,109; debt on which interest has ceased since maturity, \$1,255,710. Total, \$1,311,574,059.

This amount, however, does not include \$876,574,069 in certificates and treasury notes outstanding which are offset by an equal amount of cash on

hand for their redemption.

The cash in the treasury is classified as follows: Gold reserve, \$150,000,000; trust funds, \$876,574,069; general funds, \$156,290,532; in national bank depositories, \$150,216,598; total, \$1,331,081,200, against which there are demand liabilities outstanding amounting to \$966,211,820, which leaves a cash balance on hand of \$364,409,260.

The condition which President Castro of Venezuela attached to his response to the allies' arbitration proposal was recently made public. It is said that the president is anxious to arbitrate, but does not favor The Hague tribunal, desiring one of the American republics to act as arbitrator. Notwithstanding this objection, however, it is not regarded as probable that the original program with regard to The Hague tribunal will be changed.

On January 2 it was announced that the Bolivian ministry has received a cablegram saying that the Bolivian government has signed a treaty for arbitration with the republic of Peru to settle the boundary question. The arbitrator selected is the Argentine government.

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