

WILL ARBITRATE

POWERS AGREE ON THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL.

END OF TROUBLE IS IN SIGHT

European Powers Preferred that the President of the United States Serve as Arbitrator, but Have Assented to The Hague Plan.

WASHINGTON—The notes received from the European governments interested in the Venezuelan controversy, and from Venezuela, agree to submit the question at issue to The Hague tribunal.

A note is now being prepared by Secretary Hay, in which this government announces its hearty approval of such a course.

There appears to be no question but that it is the general understanding that the Monroe doctrine is not to enter into the question of arbitration.

President Roosevelt will not be the arbitrator for the Venezuelan controversy.

The whole subject will be referred for arbitration to The Hague tribunal.

This was the situation as it had resolved itself at the conclusion of the cabinet meeting Friday. The meeting was not so long as the sessions usually are. All the members except Secretary Root were present. The Venezuelan question was the principal and practically the only topic of general conference.

Secretary Hay presented the net results of his cable correspondence with the governments at London, Berlin, Rome and Caracas. In accordance with the suggestion made by President Roosevelt, through Secretary Hay, President Castro was represented to have agreed to submit the differences to the arbitration of The Hague. The European powers not only consented to submit the controversy to arbitration, but while they had expressed a preference for an arbitration to be conducted by President Roosevelt, they had assented to his suggestion that the matter be referred to The Hague.

No fear is expressed by the administration that the Monroe doctrine will be brought into the controversy in any manner that might result in an embarrassing situation for the United States.

An intimation is given of the conditions which may have been imposed by the European powers or by President Castro precedent to the arbitration. It is known that Great Britain was willing to submit the subject to the arbitration of President Roosevelt, practically without conditions, but the suggestion is made that perhaps two of the other powers involved proposed some other conditions which might have proved embarrassing to the president had he undertaken the responsibility of determining the question.

It is understood that money must pass, but it is also known that the amount of cash to be required of Venezuela before arbitration is not nearly so large as has been stated. It is not possible to learn whether the allies insist upon apologies from Castro, and while it is assumed that the blockade will be speedily raised, no arrangements to that end have been made.

MASCAGNI WILL RESUME.

Will Give Another Performance in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Ill.—Pietro Mascagni, the Italian composer, will appear in Chicago as temporary director of the Thomas orchestra. It was also determined that he will resume his tour of the United States and he is looking for a manager with sufficient capital to insure a successful journey.

So many Chicagoans requested the composer to give another performance that it was impossible for him to refuse. Requests came from men and women in every walk of life. The concert will be held at the Auditorium theater.

Y. M. C. A. in Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG—The third annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian association, under the patronage of Prince Oldenburg, was held here. Among those present were Prince Plato Obelensky, Senator Tagantzev, E. L. Nobel and Franklin Gaylord. The Russian branch of the association is nearly self-sustaining and its membership in the last year has increased.

Prince Out of a Job.

LONDON—On vetoing the Prince Francis of Teck's proposed appointment as a deputy partner of the stock broking firm of Panmure, Gordon & Co., King Edward allowed him \$10,000 a year until he can get some job for him.

Vanderbilt Grows Better.

NEW YORK—Cornelius Vanderbilt continues to improve. His temperature is slowly dropping toward normal. The attending physicians are well satisfied with his progress.

CATTLE DISEASE COSTLY.

Will Take Much Money to Keep it From Spreading.

WASHINGTON—While the importance of the subject is not generally appreciated, it is still a fact that no other matter has come up in congress at this session which is of greater moment than the proposition to spend \$1,000,000 in an attempt to stamp out the cattle disease which has broken out in New England. Thus far the foot and mouth disease, as it is called, is practically confined to Massachusetts and Vermont. It was, without doubt, brought to Boston from Europe in the fodder of a consignment of horses. Just as soon as the department of agriculture learned of the outbreak prompt steps were taken to prevent its spread. But it is estimated that there are at least 15,000 cattle suffering from the disease in the states named. Many affected animals have been transported from place to place in railroad cars and these cars doubtless contain the germs, which may readily be carried to every state in the union. It will cost the federal government more than \$500,000 to pay for the cattle which must be slaughtered and buried in New England alone. Should the disease spread, ten times that sum would scarcely pay a tithe of the cost which the government will incur in enforcing the provisions of the law applicable to cattle disease.

ROBBERS LOOT MISSOURI BANK.

Vault Blown Open and Entire Contents Secured.

UNION, Mo.—The Bank of Union was robbed Saturday morning, the vault blown open with nitro-glycerine and \$50,000, the entire contents, were stolen.

The robbers were two in number and are believed to be professionals. They escaped.

About 1 o'clock a loud explosion was heard and shots were fired around the public square. Most of the citizens who heard the noise supposed it was caused by boys out on a lark, celebrating Christmas, and paid no attention to it.

Oscar Busch, a hardware dealer, who lived across the street, noticing that the bank was being robbed, went to the window to look out, but was covered by a revolver. He then kept quiet. Others in the vicinity of the bank were also kept quiet by a display of revolvers.

About fifty shots were fired to terrorize any who might want to venture out. Some say seven men were seen around, but Mr. Busch says but two men left the bank after the robbery.

The wreck was complete, the vault door and the safe being completely demolished, as was the whole interior of the bank. The glass front of the building was also completely destroyed. When the work was finished the men left town, walking toward Hartman.

F. W. Hartman, cashier, was called after all was over. He estimates the loss at about \$50,000. The bank carried \$10,000 insurance against burglary. There is no clue.

MRS. GRANT WRITES STORY.

Leaves Interesting Manuscript of Personal Reminiscences.

WASHINGTON—Mrs. Grant has left a very interesting and valuable manuscript of personal reminiscences which she began when her distinguished husband was writing his memoirs, and has added to it from time to time as her health and disposition permitted. It consists of 300 or 400 pages of typewritten matter, sufficient for a book of ordinary size, and neatly tied up in chapters with blue ribbon. She describes many incidents in her domestic experience, beginning with the time of her marriage, and gives important facts concerning General Grant that have never been published. Her stories of army life, events that occurred while she was living in the White House, and her description of the attentions which the general received during his tour around the world will be a valuable contribution to history.

Illinois Governor is Well.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Gov. Yates, who is now in Florida for his health, did not spend Christmas in Cuba, as expected. A message received at the executive office states that the Governor and Mrs. Yates will return to Springfield next week, as he is greatly improved in health and is now able to assume charge of state affairs.

Postmaster Suicides.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—C. T. Greening, postmaster at Cornland, Logan county, committed suicide after a postoffice inspector had checked up his accounts and found him to be \$1,400 short. Greening was found dead in a barn in the rear of his residence with a bullet wound over his right eye and a revolver clutched in his hand.

Mrs. Fremont Dead.

LOS ANGELES—Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, widow of General Fremont, died at her home in this city Saturday night.

LIVES ARE LOST

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD.

TWO TRAINS CRASH TOGETHER

Number of Dead Reaches More Than Thirty—Responsibility for Accident is Believed to Rest on Telegraph Operator.

LONDON, Ont.—A train wreck bringing death to over two score of passengers and terrible pain and suffering to about thirty-five, occurred at 10:10 o'clock Friday night at Wanstead, Canada, a station on the Sarnia branch of the Grand Trunk, forty miles from this city, when the Pacific express, flying westward at the rate of fifty miles an hour, and crowded to its capacity with passengers returning to their homes from holiday visits, crashed into an eastbound freight.

The latest estimates of the fatalities is thirty killed and thirty-five or more injured.

The darkness of the night and the raging of a blizzard added horrors to the wreck.

Fire broke out in the wreckage of the day coach, but it was smothered with snow, which was thrown on it before it gained any headway.

The Pacific express is a fast train. Last night it was delayed two hours by the heavy travel and at Wanstead it was speeding to make up time. The freight was working slowly east under orders to take the switch at Wanstead and allow the express to pass.

In the blinding snow storm neither engineer saw the other train approaching, apparently, and the freight had just commenced to pull in the siding when the passenger train came up.

The shock was awful. In a second the baggage and express cars of the passenger train telescoped into the day coach. This day coach was reduced to splinters and fragments back to the last three windows. As it was crowded, the results were terrible. Fire that broke out was quickly smothered, but the fire was scarcely more dangerous than the cold. For three hours or more injured passengers were pinned underneath wreckage, crying piteously for help, while they suffered from exposure to the elements.

Exposure probably hastened the death of some of the injured and caused the death of some of those who might have been saved if it had been only a question of extricating them from the wreckage.

The Pullman cars stayed on the track and were comparatively uninjured, although the passengers in them were severely shaken in the shock.

Andrew Carson, the operator at Watford, the first station east of the wreck, whose failure to deliver orders to Conductor McAuliffe of the Pacific express to pass the freight at Wanstead is said by the Grand Trunk officials to have caused the wreck, made to the Associated Press his first statement since the wreck. He says he received the order for No. 5, the express, to pass the freight at Wanstead at 9:48 o'clock, but declares positively that a few minutes later Dispatcher J. G. Kerr at London called him and ordered him to "bust" or cancel the order. He said:

About 9:54, after calling Wyoming and ascertaining that the freight was there, the dispatcher called me rapidly a half dozen times. When I answered on the wire he told me to 'bust' this order. I wrote 'bust' it across the order just as McAuliffe came in and asked me what the order board was out against him for. I told him we had had an order for him but the dispatcher had 'busted' it. He asked me to hurry and write him a clearance order, which I did. After the train had started and was out of my reach the dispatcher learned that the freight had left Wyoming. I told him I could not stop No. 5, as it had left. He immediately began calling Kings Court Junction, the station between Watford and Wanstead, on the railroad wire and I tried to raise them on the commercial wire. We both failed to do this, however, until after the express had passed the Junction." Carson admitted that he knew that it was against the rules to cancel a train order without sending a substitute for it, but said that the dispatcher was his superior officer and he disliked to question his order or dispute his authority to take this action. Dispatcher Kerr's order book in the local Grand Trunk office does not show that the order was "busted" or cancelled as Carson claims. According to the book it was still in force and should have been delivered to the conductor of the express. Kerr has not made any statement even to the railroad officials and will not until he takes the stand at the inquest.

Division Superintendent George D. Jones of Toronto says that the rule against cancelling or "busting" train orders is the strictest in the company's code. "I do not believe," he said, "that it has been violated since the standard dispatching rules went into

effect. Dispatcher Kerr is one of the best and most efficient dispatchers in our service. He is the operator who accompanied the train bearing the duke and duchess of York on the royal tour of Canada a year ago. I have every confidence in him."

MOORS PUT TO ROUT.

Two Thousand of Sultan's Troops Killed or Wounded.

TANGIER, Morocco.—On December 22, 10,000 Shereefian troops, commanded by a brother of the sultan's minister of war, received orders to concentrate and take the offensive against the pretender at Taza. Before the Shereefians moved upon him the pretender attacked them with large bodies of cavalry. The imperial army was surrounded, completely routed and fled in disorder toward Fez, abandoning all materials of war. The first fugitives arrived at Fez on the morning of December 24.

The gates of Fez at present are shut. Shops there are closed and the population is greatly excited, but there has been no disorder.

The European colony of Fez, embodying about 500 persons, is taking no steps to leave the town and appears to be satisfied that it is in no imminent danger, although the situation is regarded as serious. It is said that the pretender's followers have received numerous additions since his success and he is already negotiating with the tribes of Wedmaweb valley. The population of Fez is reported to be generally hostile to the sultan and ready to acclaim any pretender who will guarantee the town from pillage.

No details of the imperial losses have yet been received here, but it is rumored that 2,000 of the sultan's soldiers were killed or wounded. The authorities here are trying to minimize the disaster. It is said that a section of the imperial troops sent as reinforcements deserted to the rebels and aided in driving the local troops back to Fez.

ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE.

Caleb Powers of Kentucky Says His Means Are Exhausted.

GEORGETOWN, Ky.—Ex-Secretary of State Caleb Powers, who has had two trials and now awaits in jail here his third trial for complicity in the murder of the late Governor William Goebel, issued the following appeal to the public:

"I have had written a number of letters to different states asking for financial aid in my coming trial for alleged complicity in the Goebel murder. A portion of the press has, through a misunderstanding of the facts, attempted to thwart my plan for raising the much-needed money with which to defend myself, by circulating a report that these letters were not genuine because signed by different persons for me.

"It is true that many of the letters were signed by different persons, because it was impossible for one person to send them out in the limited time before my next trial, but all of these letters are genuine.

"I have been continuously in the jails of this state for nearly three years. My means are exhausted. The generosity of Kentucky has been taxed to the utmost in my former so-called trials. In a few weeks I am again to be tried for my life. Hence my appeal now to my friends outside of Kentucky."

W. J. BRYAN IN MEXICO.

Visit Varied by Sight-Seeing and Official Calls.

MEXICO CITY.—William J. Bryan's visit has been varied by sight-seeing and official calls. He has been received in audience by President Diaz and Minister of Finance Limantour. Mrs. Bryan and the children visited the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Last evening the Bryan party took a train for Cordova, whence they will travel over the Vera Cruz & Pacific road to Alfred Bishop Mason's hacienda. The party will return here Tuesday morning.

The government people have not sought Mr. Bryan for information on silver as his views are well known here.

Gobbled by the Trust.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—According to the Courier-Journal, Harry Weissinger, president of the Weissinger Tobacco company of this city, has closed a deal which has been pending for several days for the sale of his plant to the Continental Tobacco company for \$2,500,000. The papers have been signed and Mr. Weissinger will leave for New York to complete the details of the transaction. The company is one of the largest independent concerns of the kind in the country.

Cervera is Honored.

MADRID—The appointment of Vice Admiral Cervera, who surrendered to the American fleet off Santiago de Cuba, to the post of chief of staff of the navy has been published in the Official Gazette.

"BEN HUR" COMING TO OMAHA



No dramatic spectacle ever presented on the stage in this country has aroused the favor that Klaw & Erlanger's stupendous "Ben Hur" has created wherever it has been seen. It comes to Omaha next week for eight performances, and large crowds will no doubt attend from this vicinity. The production is a notable one in every way. In all, 350 people are required, twelve horses and three camels are used in the chariot race and the "Star of Bethlehem" tableaux and seven carloads of scenery and effects are carried complete. The company travels in two special trains, each composed of three parlor coaches and four tourist cars, and altogether it is considered the most pretentious and massive undertaking ever attempted in America.

For the convenience of out-of-town patrons, special reduced rates and additional train accommodations are announced on all roads during "Ben Hur" week and mail orders for seats are carefully filled in the order they are received, when accompanied with remittances.

Arabian Coffee.

The Arabian coffee-maker, having prepared his fire of charcoal, and placed it near a huge pot containing water, takes a few handfuls of green coffee berries, carefully culls out all imperfect berries and foreign substances, and then places the best of the berries in an iron ladle held over the fire. The berries are permitted to roast until they begin to smoke and are then, while still uncharred, placed in a small mortar and carefully brayed with a pestle closely fitting the cup of the mortar. The berries are not, however, reduced to a dust. While this process has been going on a small pot has been half filled with tepid water from the large pot and placed over the fire. When the water in the small pot has begun to boil the broken coffee berries are thrown in and the boiling is permitted to go on for a short time, the decoction being stirred with a spoon when it shows signs of boiling over. The coffee is then served in small cups without cream or sugar.

Fisherman's Strange Catch.

While trolling for bass the other afternoon, near San Francisco, J. Brunz felt a tug at his line and squared himself for a battle with his finny prisoner. The struggle was a royal one, and Brunz sighed with relief when he was finally able to haul in the line and bring the fish alongside the boat. As it came to the surface, however, the start which he experienced nearly caused him to let go the line and snatch at an oar in self defense. In weight the fish tipped the scale at five pounds. The body fins and tail were those of a striped bass, but the head resembled that of a seat, with an under jaw projecting in front at least an inch beyond the upper. Brunz has been an enthusiastic fisherman for years and has seen all forms of denizens of water, both fresh and salt. He and his associates assert that it has never been their misfortune to hook such a monstrosity hitherto.

Remarkable Monolith in Chili.

A remarkable monolith, more than 5,000 feet in height, was recently discovered in Chili. The base of this stupendous undersea needle is barely 240 feet in circumference, yet it rears itself, solitary and alone, to the height of nearly a mile, its culminating point a flat, circular surface no bigger than a cartwheel, reaching to within less than 600 feet of the surface. No such natural phenomenon, on any such stupendous scale, could possibly stand alone on dry land freed from its supporting and protecting envelope of perfectly still water. But even supposing that it were possible to lift it bodily from the depths of the ocean, and set it up on land, storm, heat and frost would cause it to crumble to pieces in a very few years.

A London newspaper man, said to be capable, was suddenly called upon to write an obituary of Bret Harte. With a mind full of something else—we are not told what—he wrote a column and a half and sent it to the printer. When it came back in proof he was horrified to find that he had written a lengthy article about Mark Twain. It was too late to re-write the obituary and he was obliged to change the name and the titles of the books and let the article go in.

The Champion Liar Turns Up.

Such a long time has elapsed since anything has been heard heard from Joe Mulhaaton, "the world's champion liar," that he is generally supposed to have been dead for years. Therefore when he suddenly turned up in New Orleans a few days ago his friends greeted him as one returned from the dead. He has been mining in Arizona for eight years, and in all that time has been practically lost to the world. "A number of new liars have appeared during my absence," says Joe, "but they had better look to their laurels. I am tired of mining and will now take to lying again."

Wax from Frees.

The wax palm of the Andes is a vegetable wonder. It grows to a height of nearly 200 feet and thrives not only on the plains but the mountains. The wood is tough and durable and is employed in carpentry. The wax comes from the pits between the trunk and fronds. It is yellow or grayish white, is as pure as beeswax, and is used for making candles. A "peon" climbing the tree can gather from 20 pounds to 30 pounds from each.

A Heathen Rite in Russia.

A curious account is given in a Kazan (Russia) paper of a heathen sacrifice recently offered up to idols in a Chuvash village in the Province of Kazan. Contributions of butter, milk, salt and meal were requisitioned by the priests from the villagers, and on a propitious day the whole people turned out to the river bank where prayers were offered up to the gods for rain, and a swallow, having been caught and smeared with butter, was released to "fly upwards to carry our prayers to the ears of the gods." The proceedings closed with a feast, after which the priests began punning one another into the water, and then flinging water over the assembled crowd. The story is baldly told, without the least interest in what appears to be some relic of old-age ceremonial which may be worthy of the attention of the learned in such matters.—London Standard

An Insectivorous Illuminant.

Here is an insect that carries a lantern at night. It is called the "lantern fly," and is found in South America. Its huge head is hollow, made of thin and papery tissue, and painted red



and yellow, like a toy. At night—the fly is nocturnal in habit—the head is illuminated like a lantern, affording quite a brilliant light.

Frenchman Fond of His Tomb.

An eccentric old gentleman named Chapelain has just died at Monboudou, in the Department of the Sarthe, France. He was very rich, and had caused a monumental tomb to be built on a piece of land adjoining the cemetery.

In this tomb he has for twenty years past spent several hours a day, often sleeping there, in order, as he said, to get used to his future dwelling place.

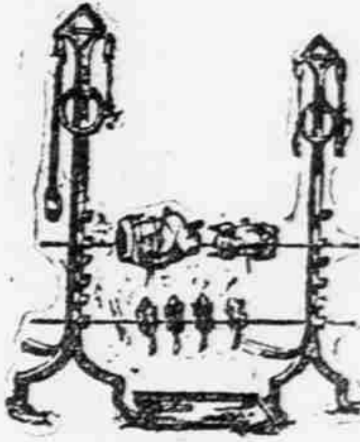
At this house he kept the coffin in which he was to be buried, and used it as a bed, while he invariably had his winding sheet or shroud laid on the table in the dining room in lieu of a tablecloth.—London Express.

Clay Butter.

It is not generally known that in many parts of the world clay is eaten on bread as a substitute for butter. This is termed "stone butter," and is used in many parts of Germany. In northern parts of Sweden earth is often baked in bread, and is sold in the public markets on the Italian peninsula as well as on the island of Sardinia, Persia, Nubia and other tropical countries. "Health" says this practice probably had its origin in the knowledge that all earths have some kind of flavor, and take the place of salt, a necessary ingredient in all kinds of food.

Spittrack.

Before the invention of ovens meat was roasted on spits as here shown,



which constantly turned the joint to the fire.

For the first time in the history of Yale university a president of that institution has entered actively into athletics. A few days ago President Arthur T. Hadley, as a member of the faculty tennis team, played against the regular Yale team. His side lost by five matches to three, but Mr. Hadley defeated his youthful antagonist. He was attired in conventional tennis custom and proved to be an adept, winning easily in straight sets. Rev. Anson Phelps Stokes, secretary of Yale, was not so successful and was badly winded at the close.