

BOWEN GIVEN FULL POWER

Castro Tells American Minister to Make Settlement.

HAS COMPLETE JURISDICTION.

Mission is Accepted Subject to Approval of Washington Authorities. United States Will Recognize the Blockade—Germans Seize Schooner.

Caracas, Dec. 19.—Lopez Parait, Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, has transmitted to United States Minister Bowen a document signed by President Castro, as constitutional president of the republic, in which Mr. Bowen is recognized as the only representative of Venezuela in the matter of effecting a settlement of the present difficulty.

According to the terms of this document, Mr. Bowen may act without restriction, and he is to use all means possible to protect the interests of Venezuela. The state department at Washington has been notified of the transmission of this instrument to Mr. Bowen. Events here are dependent upon the receipt through the state department of the answers of the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the proposal of arbitration advanced by Venezuela. These answers are expected today. Should they be favorable the Venezuelan government strongly desires that a conference of the ambassadors of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the United States then be held in Washington and that Mr. Bowen leave LaGuayra Dec. 23 for the United States on board the steamer Caracas, which is due to reach New York Dec. 29. Mr. Bowen will meet the ambassadors in Washington. No meeting for terms of settlement is to be held on Venezuelan soil.

"El Mocho" Hernandez, the released revolutionary leader, called at the American legation yesterday for the purpose of paying his respects to Minister Bowen. In the afternoon President Castro, accompanied by his wife, also called at the legation, where he stayed for three-quarters of an hour. Lieutenant Van Duser of the gunboat Marietta has been sent here from LaGuayra to act as secretary to Mr. Bowen. Merchants of all nationalities here hope that the arbitration proposal will be accepted, and that the recent efforts to reach a peaceful settlement will render ineffective the blockade of Puerto Cabello, LaGuayra and other ports announced for Dec. 20.

Wants United States Guarantee.

London, Dec. 19.—It is not apparent that anything definite has resulted from yesterday's cabinet meeting with regard to the transmission by the government of the United States of Venezuela's request for arbitration. The Associated Press is in a position to say that Great Britain is making strenuous efforts to induce the United States to guarantee Venezuela's compliance with the findings of arbitration. The announcement that President Castro had entrusted United States Minister Bowen with full powers to arrange a settlement was received at the foreign office with much interest, accompanied by the remark: "So Mr. Bowen is on the job."

To Be a War Blockade.

Washington, Dec. 19.—It is understood here the blockade to be declared by the allies against Venezuela tomorrow is to be a "war blockade," as contrasted with the "peace blockade," which has been in operation since the trouble with Venezuela assumed acute stage. Following practice in such cases this government will maintain an attitude of neutrality towards the belligerents, which they practically become by the establishment of a blockade, although whether a presidential proclamation announcing our neutrality to the world will be issued has not yet been decided upon. The matter will come up for definite determination very soon.

Capture Venezuelan Schooner.

LaGuayra, Dec. 19.—The German cruiser Falke, which has been anchored for the past two days at the entrance of Lake Maracaibo, yesterday captured the Venezuelan schooner Victoria. After cutting down her main mast, thus disabling her, the Germans abandoned the vessel. This action has caused great indignation among the Venezuelans and excitement runs high at Maracaibo, where the people have been parading the streets uttering cries against Great Britain and Germany.

Give Formal Notice of Blockade.

Caracas, Dec. 19.—It has been learned from an official source that the allies today will notify the authorities at LaGuayra of the blockade to become effective tomorrow at 3 p. m. of the ports of LaGuayra, Puerto Cabello, Coro, Maracaibo, Carupano and Barcelona.

Will Open a New Branch.

Omaha, Dec. 19.—The Union Pacific will open a new branch of railroad Sunday. It is that branch extending north of Cedar Rapids to Spalding, Neb., a distance of fourteen miles, which has but recently been completed. Spalding is a new station created by the construction of this branch.

BOWDISH KILLS HIMSELF.

Suicide in Missouri Surprised to Find That He is Out of Illinois.

Marcelline, Mo., Dec. 19.—C. P. Bowdish of Elburn, Ill., shot and killed himself in a hotel here last night. In his pockets were found \$865. Bowdish alighted from a Santa Fe train at 7 a. m. and crossing the street from the station to the Central hotel, registered. He walked around town, finally visited the office of a physician and complained of being sick. The doctor suspected that the man was drinking and advised him to refrain. Bowdish promised to do so, and returning to his hotel stopped in the telegraph office and asked the operator what town this was. Being informed that it was Marcelline, he expressed surprise that he was out of the state of Illinois, and then sent a message to his wife at Elburn, Ill., to come and get him, that he was here sick. A reply came from his wife that she would start at once, and she will arrive today, entirely unprepared to find her husband dead.

TO DRAIN MARSH LANDS.

Western Indiana Counties Plan a Million-Dollar Ditch.

Crown Point, Ind., Dec. 19.—Preliminary steps are under way in the northwestern counties of Indiana, including Laporte, Starke, Porter, Lake and Jasper, to erect what will probably be the largest artificial waterway of its kind east of the Mississippi river. When completed it will reclaim hundreds of thousands of acres of Kanawakee marsh land, which are now regarded as worthless. A contract has been let for the first fourteen miles in Laporte and Starke counties for \$120,000. The ditch will be eighty feet wide and sixteen feet deep. It is the plan of the other counties to continue the great ditch to the Illinois line, a distance of sixty miles. The total cost will be about \$1,000,000. The project has been taken up by the owners of large ranches along the Kanawakee. The payment is to be made by assessments on benefits derived from the ditches.

TWICE ARRESTED FOR MURDER.

Erickson Again in Custody on Charge of Slaying His Father.

Iron Mountain, Mich., Dec. 19.—Nels Erickson was again arrested today, charged with the murder of his father, John Erickson, who disappeared from his home at Norway last May. The body was found in November covered with brush and three holes in the head showed how death resulted. Nels Erickson was arrested at the time, but was later discharged. A shotgun found near the body, supposed at the time to belong to the dead man's son, has been identified and led to the arrest. Erickson had \$1,600 when he disappeared, but no money was found.

CARRIED \$340,000 INSURANCE.

Louisville, Dec. 19.—It developed yesterday that R. C. Wayne, a Louisville business man, who was found dead last night in the vicinity of Jacob park, with a gunshot wound in the breast, carried insurance on his life of \$340,000 and had applications pending for \$50,000 more. It was upon the fact that Mr. Wayne carried such a large life insurance and was said to be suffering from rheumatism that a theory of suicide is based. His friends and family declare death was due to an accident, and that the gun was discharged while he was climbing through a fence.

GRAVE ROBBERING.

Dec. 19.—Something of a "pool" exists here for the distribution of bodies among the local medical colleges is expected to result in Indianapolis, through the efforts of Coroner Tutewiler. The object of the "pool" is to obtain bodies in a legitimate manner, and thus put a stop to the wholesale grave robbing that has been carried on about the city for years.

LIFE SENTENCE AT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

Hastings, Mich., Dec. 19.—Mathias H. Utzler, alias John Brantlinger, yesterday pleaded guilty of the murder of Mrs. Robert Garretson, in Johnson township, Monday. He had previously admitted he ravished his victim after death. Judge Smith sentenced the prisoner to solitary confinement at hard labor for life in the state prison at Jackson, and Utzler was taken there last night.

DUEL AT A DANCE.

Beaumont, Tex., Dec. 19.—During a dance here last night a duel was fought between John Broach, street contractor, and Frank Matthews, both using pistols. Broach is dead, H. M. Matthews is fatally wounded and Frank Matthews has a bullet in his leg. The shooting took place outside the dance hall. Only three shots were fired.

TO INCREASE OCEAN RATES.

London, Dec. 19.—At a conference of steamship owners, trading with Canada, held this week at Liverpool, it was decided that the freight rates were not remunerative and it was agreed to increase them by 5 per cent to 10 per cent in 1903.

REVENUE CUTTER FOR HAWAII.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The senate committee on commerce took favorable action on Senator Perkins' bill for a revenue cutter for the Hawaiian islands.

HOUSE ASKS FOR PAPERS

Calls for Correspondence in Venezuelan Case.

TO REDUCE PHILIPPINE TARIFF.

Bill Fixing Duties at Twenty-five Per Cent of the Dingley Rates is Passed. Pure Food Measure is Taken Up and Made Continuing Order.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The house yesterday passed the bill to reduce the duties on the products of the Philippine Islands coming to the United States from 75 per cent of the Dingley rates (the present duty) to 25 per cent of those rates. The discussion of the bill was accompanied by considerable maneuvering on the Democratic side to secure test votes on amendments to lower the tariff barrier still further and a record vote was forced on a motion to recommit with instructions to report a bill providing for absolute free trade with the islands. The division on the proposition was on party lines, with the exception of Mr. Call (Rep., Mass.), who voted with the Democrats.

The discussion of the pure food bill which has been made a continuing order until disposed of, was begun. Mr. Tompkins (O.) and Mr. Adamson (Ga.) opened the debate respectively for and against the bill. Mr. Gardner (Mass.) opposed the bill.

The McCall resolution calling on the state department for the correspondence in the Venezuelan embargo was adopted at the beginning of the session.

DEWEY ANNOUNCES ITINERARY.

Advices the Navy Department Where Ships Will Go for Christmas.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The navy department contributes the most important developments in the Venezuelan situation over night 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 the admiral that department's approval of his orders. This will set at rest the rumors that the United States contemplates complicating the situation by dispatching the large force to LaGuayra as an offset to the allied fleet. According to the proposed 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, near Porto Rico.

FIX FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mrs. Grant's Body Will Be Interred With Military Honors at New York.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Arrangements were completed here for the funeral of the late Mrs. Julia Dent Grant. There will be funeral services at the Metropolitan Methodist church in this city at 9:30 o'clock tomorrow morning, the Rev. Frank M. Bristol officiating. Immediately after the service at the church the funeral party will proceed to the Pennsylvania railroad station and take the train for New York city. The Grant Monument association's representative will meet the body at Jersey City, taking it to the Grant tomb in Riverside drive, where Grant post, G. A. R., will serve as a guard of honor. The committal services will occur at the tomb Sunday morning. Special military honors will be paid.

ROOT URGES GENERAL STAFF.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Secretary Root made an argument before the senate committee on military in support of the bill for the creation of a general staff, with the lieutenant general as the head of it. Secretary Root renewed his request that the bill should be amended so as to postpone the date when it shall take effect until after next August, when General Miles, who opposes the measure, will retire by reason of age. In the meeting of the committee Senator Alger took a very decided position in support of the bill.

DINNER AT WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The president and Mrs. Roosevelt gave a dinner at the white house last night in honor of the cabinet, to which a large number of other guests also were invited. It was the first formal evening function at the white house since its remodeling, and gave the guests an opportunity to view the many changes which have been made in the interior of the mansion.

CLAIMS MILLION DOLLAR ESTATE.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Louise K. Eames, claiming to be the only child of Lester H. Eames, deceased, a former Ottawa, Ill., bank president, seeks to establish her claim to his estate, valued at \$1,000,000, asking that an agreement by which she signed away all her rights to the estate for \$10,000 be set aside.

VANDERBILT'S CONDITION.

New York, Dec. 19.—The physicians in attendance on Cornelius Vanderbilt issued the following bulletin: "Mr. Vanderbilt so far is standing the complication as well as we reasonably can expect."

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