

ACCEPTS HAGUE TRIBUNAL

President Castro is Willing to Arbitrate Differences.

ROOSEVELT HAS NOT DECIDED.

President Neither Accepts or Rejects Proposal That He Act as Arbitrator. Germany Wants Some Cash in Advance Before Agreeing to Mediation.

Caracas, Dec. 25.—President Castro has telegraphed from La Victoria his acceptance of the proposal to submit all pending differences to the arbitration of The Hague tribunal, subject to certain conditions, which include cessation of the blockade and the return to Venezuela of the fleet seized by the allied powers. President Castro's acceptance has been transmitted to the Washington government, from which the proposal emanated.

Washington Dec. 25.—No confirmation could be obtained in Washington of the report coming from Caracas that the proposition had been made to President Castro that all pending differences between Venezuela and the European governments having claims against her be submitted to arbitration of The Hague tribunal. It is known that only two days ago President Roosevelt had not determined whether or not to accept the proposal of the allies to act as arbitrator or to urge again that the question should go to The Hague. If, as stated, the suggestion has come from Washington that the matter should be arbitrated at The Hague, that conclusion probably was reached at the long conference the president had with Secretary Hay Wednesday, when the two officials were together for some time considering the proposals from the allies that the president take up the question of arbitration. The dispatch to President Castro, through Minister Bowen, suggesting arbitration at The Hague, must have followed that conference. The officials here have refused absolutely to say anything on the subject since the receipt of the proposal from the allies or even to give out anything bearing on the terms of that proposal. The impression here is that an early determination of the matter will be reached. No matter by whom the matter is arbitrated, either by the president or by the Hague tribunal the feeling here is strong that the United States government, if the occasion arises, will insist that the existing blockade be called off while the arbitration is in progress. The presence of the blockading fleet along the Venezuelan coast is sure to be a menace to peaceful conditions, and difficulties of various kinds may arise at any time through the arbitrary action of some of the commanders of ships of the allied fleet or to the intransigence of some skipper who may attempt to run the blockade. But the greatest objection to a continuance of the blockade pending arbitration will be the loss to American shipping interests, which this government does not believe should be tolerated.

Germany Names Conditions.

Berlin, Dec. 25.—The Lokal Anzeiger publishes the following statement, which was evidently inspired by the foreign office: "The German government has excluded from the scope of arbitration of the Venezuelan difficulty a claim of 1,700,000 bolivars, which must be paid immediately in cash before arbitration shall begin." The paper adds that it is understood here that President Roosevelt's undertaking to arbitrate involves an indirect guarantee for the payment of the sum to be awarded. Confidence has grown in government circles during the past twenty-four hours that President Roosevelt will accept the task of arbitration.

Warships Watch the Coast.

Willemstad, Curacao, Dec. 25.—The steamer Caracas has brought the remainder of her cargo here. The warships of the allied powers are using searchlights to watch the coast of Venezuela. Forty vessels are now detained at LaGuayra.

SERIOUS CONDITION AT FEZ.

Rebels Want to Continue the War Against Christians.

London, Dec. 25.—The correspondent of the Times at Fez, Morocco, describes the situation there as having become very serious, owing to a large increase in the number of the pretender's followers, whom the government troops are too weak to attack. Many of the tribes not already in rebellion are wavering and are ready to join the rebels in the event of a serious government defeat. The pretender is fully supplied with everything necessary and has distributed his forces over a district where they can be either collected or dispersed very quickly. If successful, the pretender proposes that the rebels shall nominate a new sultan, who would promise to continue the war against the Christians.

City Hall in Ashes.

Marlboro, Mass., Dec. 25.—Marlboro city hall was burned at midnight with the records of the city departments. Only a few books in the city auditor's department were saved. The loss is \$100,000. Michael O'Brien, a houseman, was caught under falling walls and his condition is serious.

TEN KILLED IN FREIGHT WRECK.

Disastrous Collision on the Colorado and Southern Railroad.

Trinidad, Colo., Dec. 25.—Developments indicate that the wreck on the Colorado and Southern railroad, just outside of this city, Wednesday night, which was caused by a collision between a merchandise freight train and a heavily loaded coal train, was the most disastrous in the history of the road, where freight trains alone were concerned. It is known that at least ten men were killed and rumor has it that several more bodies will be unearthed before the wreckage is cleared away.

The list of known dead is as follows: Engineer Elmer Pearce, Pueblo; Fireman J. Fox, Brakeman McDermott, Engineer J. W. Goldtrap, Trinidad; Fireman Leveaux, Phil Landis, Brakeman L. F. Richards, King, a machinist.

Two unidentified bodies are exposed to view, but have not yet been removed from the wreckage. It is feared that several miners who were supposed to be riding on the freight train are among the dead.

HOT SPRINGS EXPLOSION.

One Victim is Dead and Three Others Not Expected to Live.

Hot Springs, Ark., Dec. 25.—An inquest was held over the remains of William Helwig, the first person to die as a result of the injuries received in the Turf Exchange explosion, and it has developed that the authorities are going to make a thorough investigation of the carelessness which is alleged to have caused the disaster. Officers were stationed about the wreck immediately after the explosion and they have kept all persons away since. Ben Murray, driver of the oil wagon, is still held in custody.

Lake Steamer Given Up for Lost.

Toledo, Dec. 25.—The steamer Al Hopkins, lumber laden and bound for Toledo from Amherstburg, has been given up for lost by local vessels. The Hopkins left Amherstburg on Tuesday morning and ordinarily would have arrived here three hours later. Word from the lighthouse, twenty-two miles from here, reports having seen the vessel on Tuesday afternoon. The Hopkins was struggling against a terrific gale and was battling with the ice. Finally, she turned back in the direction whence she had come and has not been heard of since at any port along Lake Erie.

Motorman Crushed to Death.

Indianapolis, Dec. 25.—The Union Traction company's "limited" car from this city to Anderson and Muncie collided with President George F. McCullough's private car seventeen miles from here yesterday, and Bart Fraser, motorman on the "limited," was so badly crushed that he died shortly afterwards.

Death of Editor Ham.

Dubuque, Dec. 25.—Moses M. Ham, sixty-nine years old, for many years editor of the Dubuque Herald, a national Democratic committee man from 1872 to 1888, once a state senator and postmaster of Dubuque during Cleveland's administration, died last night.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

George Bundahl of Crookston, Minn., shot and killed Caroline A. Moen and committed suicide. The Missouri Kansas and Texas Railroad company has let the contract for fifty miles of the extension from Coalgate, I. T., to Oklahoma City.

J. A. Edson, general manager of the Kansas City Southern railway, has resigned and will succeed J. M. Herbert as manager of the Denver and Rio Grande.

James Leeming of New York, general freight agent of the Erie railroad, died in Buffalo Thursday. Mr. Leeming was a man of national reputation in railroad circles.

French police are guarding against possible violence to the Humberts, Paris swindlers, when they reach Paris. Troops will escort them from the railroad station.

James F. Dolan of Syracuse, president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, has signed final papers whereby the order throughout the world is brought under one governing board.

General Miles started an investigation of alleged cruelty to Filipinos by Americans. Natives told him of violence during reconcentration. The water cure was found to have been given.

The branch of the Texas and Pacific railroad from Weatherford, Tex., to Mineral Wells, Tex., is to be extended to Trinidad, Colo., where connection will be made with the Denver and Rio Grande railroad.

The crown prince of Saxony is accused by Berlin newspapers with beating his wife, who deserted him. The crown princess is said to have made previous attempts to elope. She will reside at Mentone.

Hilding Holm, eight years old, and Frank Smith, aged nine, were found frozen to death near Chicago industrial home for boys at Woodstock, Ill., from which they had escaped. Arthur Carlson was nearly dead from exposure.

BIG SHEEP BARN BURN

South Omaha Stock Yards Has \$50,000 Fire.

FIVE HUNDRED SHEEP PERISH.

Intense Cold and High Wind Make Work of Firemen Difficult—Burned Structures Will Be Rebuilt at Once. Bad Fire at Bloomington.

Omaha, Dec. 25.—The two big sheep barns at the Union stock yards in South Omaha were totally destroyed by fire Thursday forenoon. It is estimated that the loss will be a little over \$50,000, covered by insurance.

At the time of the fire 993 head of sheep were confined in pens in the big barns. When the alarm was given some of the men at hand hustled out 500 head into the alleys and these were saved, the balance were smothered to death. The barns burned had a capacity of 20,000 head. The loss on the sheep is estimated at \$3,000, fully covered by insurance. Just how the fire started has not been ascertained.

The intense cold and high wind prevailing made the work of the firemen difficult. The structures will be rebuilt at once.

THREE FIREMEN ARE KILLED.

Sugar Refinery Walls Collapse and Bury Men Beneath Ruins.

New York, Dec. 25.—Fire which broke out early this morning destroyed the coopeage plant of the Arbutle Bros. sugar refinery, located near the East river front in Brooklyn. The large force of fire engines and firemen which was summoned succeeded in confining the flames to the coopeage shops. Estimates of the loss run from \$100,000 up.

During the progress of the fire one of the walls of the building fell, burying four firemen beneath a mass of brick and other wreckage. When the other firemen had arrived at the pile they found Michael O'Toole and Thomas Jeffries were dead and Thomas Coppinger, a battalion chief, and Thomas McCarthy seriously hurt. Coppinger died after being taken to a hospital.

BLAZE AT BLOOMINGTON.

Flames Lick Up \$200,000 Worth of Dry Goods.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 25.—Fire which broke out last night in the middle of the building occupied by W. A. Nicolaus & Co., dry goods and ladies' furnishings, destroyed that structure and was only prevented from licking up the double store of C. W. Klem, wholesale and retail dry goods, by the hard work of the firemen. The buildings were new and as nearly fireproof as it was possible to make them, and to this is attributed the fact that the fire spread no further. The loss on the Nicolaus stock, which was valued at \$75,000, is total. The Klem stock of \$300,000 is badly damaged by smoke and water. The total loss will not be far from \$200,000. Charles Abrams, assistant fire chief, fell from a ladder while fighting the flames and was badly injured.

Four Persons Burned to Death.

Malone, N. Y., Dec. 25.—Four persons were burned to death yesterday in the house of Julius King, in Piercefield. The fire had gained such headway before it was discovered that Mrs. M. J. McGovern, King's oldest daughter, and her three children, who were sleeping on the lower floor, were not able to get out, and all were burned to death. King and his wife, with a few boarders on the upper floor, escaped by jumping out of the windows. One man was seriously burned.

Students to Be Suspended.

Des Moines, Dec. 25.—President McLean of Iowa State university announced that the investigation into the recent student riots had practically closed. He stated that while a large number of sophomores had been under investigation, all but six had been exonerated and that these would be punished by suspension unless they make a better showing. The sophomore class has agreed to pay the damages, approximating \$500, resulting from the riot.

Engineer and Fireman Killed.

Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 25.—In a head-on collision on the Grand Trunk railway near here last night, Engineer James Kerwin and Fireman Theodore Schlaubert of the light engine were instantly killed and Engineer Brown and Fireman Burkhardt of a freight train were fatally injured. The engines collided while going at full speed. The light engine had been sent out from Battle Creek to meet and help pull the freight train to this city.

Two Fatally Burned.

Wimbledon, N. D., Dec. 25.—Jesse Forsyth and Henry Sinclair were perhaps fatally burned in a fire that destroyed Frank Arceneau's restaurant and an adjoining building, owned by Andrew Juan. James Leffel and Frank Arceneau were seriously burned, but will recover. The fire was caused by a gasoline explosion.

Stock on the Range Dying.

Bonesteel, S. D., Dec. 25.—The thermometer stands at 12 degrees below zero and the snow is two feet on the level. Much stock on the range is dying.

LAURA BIGGAR ACQUITTED.

Physician and Man Who Signed Marriage Certificate Convicted.

Freshhold, N. J., Dec. 25.—Laura Biggar was acquitted and Dr. Charles C. Hendricks and Samuel Stanton, formerly justice of the peace, were found guilty by the jury in the case against the three defendants on the charge of having conspired to get possession



LAURA BIGGAR.

of the entire estate of Henry M. Bennett, a capitalist of Pittsburg.

Miss Biggar laid claim to the entire estate of Bennett, who died recently leaving a large fortune, as his wife and as the heir of a child of Bennett which she said was born to her after his death and soon died.

Dr. Hendricks was her physician and the proprietor of a sanitarium in which the child was said to have been born. Stanton said he had united Miss Biggar and Bennett in marriage.

CABLE NEARING HONOLULU.

Silvertown Expects to Complete First Link in Ocean Wire Today.

San Francisco, Dec. 25.—The following cablegram was received from the steamer Silvertown: "The eventful trip of the cable ship Silvertown will be completed today and the first link in the trans-Pacific cable will be laid. In making the Honolulu connection the cable will be buoyed thirty-five miles from the shore and spliced. During the past twenty-four hours 250 knots have been laid, making a total of 2,100 knots from San Francisco. A strong northeast trade wind is blowing, making the sea rough and a landing impossible until calmer weather. Not a single calm day has prevailed during the voyage from San Francisco, but a succession of strong winds and sea."

MOURNERS RIDE IN STREET CARS.

Strike of Hackmen Delays Funerals at St. Louis—Owners Pilot Hearings.

St. Louis, Dec. 25.—The cab and carriage drivers' strike for an increase of wages has extended until now 390 out of the 570 drivers in the city are out. Of the seventeen stables that had agreed to accede to the demands of the men, only one member of the livermen's association is said to have lived up to its agreement. During the day many funerals and social functions were interrupted by the strike. Seventeen funerals took place, at which all the mourners had to go to the various cemeteries in street cars. The hearers were driven by the owners, owing to the scarcity of drivers.

Error Keeps Man Year in Prison.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 25.—A clerical error in the pardon of the Rev. Rowland P. Hills, bigamist, will prevent his getting his liberty until April, 1904. A mistake of one year was made in calculations. It is probable Governor Savage will not shorten the sentence. Hills had arranged to marry his second wife at Blair when released. He was pardoned yesterday on the supposition that his term ended in April, 1903.

McLeod Wins Championship.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 25.—Dan McLeod won the championship of America at catch-as-catch-can wrestling and the \$1,500 end of a \$2,000 purse in Mechanics' hall before 1,100 people yesterday by getting the better of Tom Jenkins. Jenkins had a bad leg, caused by blood poisoning, and the pain caused by the points of a brass buckle entering the flesh of his leg made him quit in the third bout.

Pope Acts as Peacemaker.

London, Dec. 25.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs that as an outcome of the negotiations with the Saxon court the pope has sent a prelate to Geneva to inquire into the circumstances of the flight of the crown princess of Saxony, with a view to arranging a reconciliation.

Switchmen Out on Strike.

Marshalltown, Ia., Dec. 25.—Traffic on the Iowa Central is tied up in the yards here, a division point, because of a strike of the switchmen, who went out because of the failure of Superintendent Sweeney to reply to their demand for an increase of wages presented three weeks ago.

Kills Wife and Himself.

Eugene, Ore., Dec. 25.—George Carter shot and killed his wife and then killed himself yesterday. Jealousy was undoubtedly the cause, as the couple have been having frequent quarrels for several days, which culminated in a separation Wednesday.

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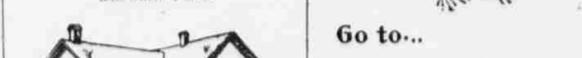
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