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AMERICA IS INVOLVED

Must Now Take Part in Venezuela's Troubles with Europe.

CASTRO ARRESTS BRITAINS AND GERMANS

Places All Subjects of Edward and William in Custody.

UNITED STATES PLEDGES PROTECTION

Minister at Caracas Authorized to Act for Withdrawing Diplomats.

REPUBLIC'S HEAD SAYS HE WILL FIGHT

Tells Interceptor His Country's Rights Will Be Enforced and Thus Forces Action—Ultimatum Expires Today.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—A dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, dated December 9, says: The combined British and German fleet today (Tuesday) seized the Venezuelan fleet, composed of four warships, in the harbor of La Guaira.

It is reported that a final ultimatum will be delivered tomorrow (Wednesday) asking for an answer and a compliance with the demand of the British and German ministers.

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 9.—All German and British subjects were arrested today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The arrests of German and British subjects at Caracas will, it is believed, involve this government in the trouble, as the United States minister has been asked to take charge of the interests of the two countries in Venezuela. The probability is that Mr. Bowen has already taken steps toward that end.

Considerable surprise is expressed here over the arrests, as the result will be to add to the serious complications already existing. It was thought when Mr. Bowen first notified the department that he had been asked to act for Great Britain and Germany that it would not be the end of Minister Bowen's activities, for from the tenor of some of the communications he had made to the department it was inferred that if he saw an opportunity to use his good offices as a mediator between President Castro and the British and German representatives he would promptly avail himself of the opportunity.

The State department would not encourage him in this attitude, preferring to avoid all complications.

An officer who returned from Venezuela states that to the best of his judgment the sum of \$5,000,000 will probably cover the claims upon which the ultimatum issued yesterday was based. The principal claim is that of the German railroad, built at a cost of \$10,000,000, and upon which Venezuela defaulted for several years the interest the government guaranteed.

The English claim also covers a number of items growing out of the government's appropriation of British railroads.

Castro Ready to Fight.

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 9.—President Castro is an interlocutor today said:

"The Venezuelan government has not received any ultimatum, properly speaking, but rather simultaneous requests from Great Britain and Germany. The claims Great Britain asks this government to settle are small and up to the present time we have not been aware of them. Never having been presented, Venezuela has consequently never refused to settle them. Great Britain's action, therefore, is without justification."

"What do you intend to do in view of the present attitude of the powers?" was asked.

"Enforce our rights," replied President Castro, "and explain to the world that Venezuela has laws and prove that we have never denied our engagements."

The president was asked what reply the Venezuelan government would make to the requests handed it by the German and British envoys. To this he replied, after reflection:

"The Venezuelan government is astonished after the notes which were transmitted to it by the diplomatic representatives of Germany and Great Britain that these envoys should leave Caracas without awaiting the reply of the Venezuelan government."

LONDON, Dec. 9.—One of the largest creditors of Venezuela states that the ultimatums of Great Britain and Germany had a seventy-two-hour limit and therefore will expire on Wednesday.

The Foreign office, while not denying the correctness of this statement, intimated to-night that the period is liable to extension.

There are some indications of a possible settlement, though nothing definite has yet been decided.

LUMBER ASSOCIATIONS MERGE

Delegates Representing Various Sections Meet and Organize a National Association.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—Delegates representing the several associations of the lumber manufacturing interests met today at the Southern hotel and organized a national association.

The objects of the new association are to handle such vital questions as the car supply and equipment, insurance, extension of credits, uniformity in grades and gauges, etc.

The associations represented by prominent lumber manufacturers are the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's association, the Georgia Sawmill association, the Northwestern Hemlock Manufacturers' association, the Hardwood Manufacturers' association, the Gulf Timber association, the North Carolina Pine association, the Southern Lumber Manufacturers' association and the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' association.

INSANE MAN SMOKED OUT

Holds Officers at Bay with Shotgun, but is Overcome by Sulphur Fumes.

MEXICO, Dec. 9.—Charles Stewart, who had torched himself in his house near here and held the sheriff, a posse of citizens and his family at bay with a shotgun Friday last, was smoked out and surrendered.

A portion of the house was first torched by the officers, who then burned sulfur in the lower rooms.

Stewart became suddenly insane last week and drove his family from the house. Today when he surrendered he was without food and nearly frozen.

OPPOSED TO SHIP SUBSIDIES

British Parliamentary Committee Thinks Bonus Plan Works More Harm Than Good.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—The report of the select committee of the House of Commons on steamship subsidies issued yesterday evening did not support the proposed plan.

The committee finds that ship owners have not suffered seriously, and common skill and industry are the major factors in the recent development of the shipping and the trade of foreign countries, notably Germany. Subsidies are held to restrict free competition and facilitate the establishment of federations and shipping rings and that therefore a general system of subsidies, except for services rendered, and without government control of the maximum rates on freight is costly and inexpedient.

The committee discusses at some length the effect on British trade on the transfer of merchant vessels to foreign ownership and enumerates the British lines sold to the Morgan syndicate and to Germans.

Dealing with the Morgan transfer, the report says:

"The American railway management unit with the steamship company management is an influential undertaking may perhaps be formed, but there are many such combinations quite as powerful as that which is. It remains, however, quite certain that the transfer of British ships to foreign flags, under the proposed scheme, will, otherwise, may cause serious results, such as developing new trades in which British ship owners without government backing can engage, and the substitution of foreign officers and crews for British.

SQUADRON CAPTURES TOWN

Maneuvers Begin by Taking Mayaguez in Porto Rico and Mining the Channel.

MAYAGUEZ, Porto Rico, Dec. 9.—The white squadron, consisting of Iowa, Illinois, Albany and Chicago, captured Mayaguez at 6:00 this morning and immediately minuted the channel.

While the operation was in progress Nashville and Eagle were sighted and successfully entered the harbor. San Francisco and Atlanta had not appeared.

The only vessels sighted by the white squadron were three scouts at the eastern end of Mona passage, and Hilo, which left Mayaguez in a cold, damp house, the only shelter he could obtain.

Then he went on to tell the most patriotic story yet brought to the attention of the commission.

He was one of the thirteen evicted by the Markle Bros. a month ago because they were unable to pay the house rent due for the strike period. His wife was sick and her 10-year-old mother, blind and unable to walk, yet they were all thrown out on the street and left to shift for themselves as best they could. Without money, almost without hope, the toil-scarred veteran managed, he scarcely realized how, to get the poor woman over the seven intervening miles to Hazelton and lodge them in a cold, damp house, the only shelter he could obtain.

Wife Dies of Exposure.

Here a local doctor came to his assistance and treated the two sick women without money and without price; but it was too late. The sickness and exposure had done their work, "for one night," explained the poor fellow between his heart-broken sobs, "my wife died."

The remainder of the squadron steamed 200 miles westward of the islands until both of Porto Rico and Mona passage, between Porto Rico and San Amaro, were located 142 miles east of Barbadoes, the objective being Mayaguez, Guayanilla, Poncensada or Culebra.

Finding that Nashville, Eagle, Atlanta and San Francisco were unable to make the standard speed of twelve knots, they were ordered to be detached and were deployed as scouts over the nearest course to the southern coast of Porto Rico to attract the attention of the enemy.

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