

the possible exception of France, which remains on pleasant relations with Venezuela.

**Howen Obtains Help.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The following cable was sent today by the Navy department to Admiral Dewey at San Juan: Send competent officer with dispatch in torpedo boat Destroyer or other vessel to Caracas as assistant to American minister.

The following cable was also sent to Commander Diehl of Marietta, now lying at La Guayra: Send Van Dusen an assistant to the American minister temporarily.

The officer from Dewey's fleet will relieve Lieutenant Commander Van Dusen, who is only an hour distant from Caracas. The Navy department explains that one reason for sending the officers to Caracas is that Mr. Howen is almost overwhelmed with work imposed on him by the many charges. He has nearly all the English residents in Caracas domiciled in the American legation and is feeding them from his own table.

The torpedo boat Destroyer will serve as a dispatch boat to keep Mr. Howen in touch with the nearest cable station in case the La Guayra cable is cut.

There will be no effort to resist a war blockade of the Venezuelan coast as against merchant ships, though custom requiring that fact, connection with the declarations made in the British Parliament, will, it is understood, be sufficient to justify all neutral nations to agree that a state of war actually exists.

The State department is still hopeful that arbitration will be accepted for the arbitration now realized to be actual war. A declaration of war would at once clothe the Venezuelans with the full rights of belligerents and might greatly protract the efforts of the allies to subdue President Castro.

**State of War Exists.**

LONDON, Dec. 17.—In the course of a statement in the House of Commons today Mr. Balfour said there was such thing as a "pacific blockade." A state of war actually existed with Venezuela and an intimation thereof would soon be given to the powers.

Mr. Balfour added that the blockade would be carried out with as little inconvenience to neutrals as possible. Nothing definite had occurred with reference to the arbitration proposal since his previous statement on the subject.

This statement was made in reply to the demand of the liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, for information on the Venezuelan situation. After reiterating Lord Lansdowne's brief statement in the House of Lords yesterday, the premier continued:

The blockade will be carried out by Great Britain and Germany along different portions of the coast, and though the two fleets will have the same objects they will not act as one force. We never had any intention of landing troops in Venezuela or occupying territory even temporarily. We do not think it desirable on either military or other grounds.

All the conditions governing such a blockade have been carefully considered and will be published in due time for the information of neutrals. The government is most anxious that these operations should be necessary for which we deeply regret, should be as little inconvenient to neutrals as they can possibly be made.

No difference will be made between the vessels of the various neutral powers. I think it is quite correct that the United States will think that there cannot be such a thing as a "pacific blockade," and I, personally, take the same view. Evidently a blockade involves a state of war.

Mr. Balfour concluded his statement with a declaration that he would not announce to the world whether the offer of arbitration from Venezuela would be accepted by Great Britain.

The premier also said the operations were undertaken, not to recover debts, but, after a long and patient delay, to recover compensation for assaults on British subjects and the seizure of British vessels.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The Times this morning gives prominence to a letter from Sir Robert Giffen, declaring the foreign editor gravely blundered in associating itself with Germany against Venezuela. Sir Robert contends that a blockade will be useless against a bankrupt state, while the seizure of the customs will be tantamount to annexation and full of danger, considering the peculiar relations of Venezuela to the United States.

Sir Robert strikes his most alarming note when he refers to the danger of Germany embroiling Great Britain with the United States. He believes that Germany would not hesitate to occupy Venezuelan territory, and he thinks the less said about British claims the better, and doubts if Great Britain has any good moral claims against Venezuela, and concludes:

The best course is to get off at all hazards, and at the utmost exact punishment for the injured seamen by getting hold, if possible, of the guilty Venezuelan officials. The Times, without endorsing Sir Robert's views, says that they are "very sound."

**NOT DUE TO CLIMATE.**

**Cataract Is Found Everywhere.**

Cataract is at home anywhere and everywhere. While most common in the temperate and cold climates, it is by no means confined to them, but is prevalent in every state and territory in the union.

The common definition of cataract is a chronic cold in the head, which if long neglected often destroys the sense of sight and hearing; but there are many other forms of the disease even more obstinate and dangerous.

Cataract of the throat and bronchial tubes, as well as cataract of the stomach and liver, are almost as common as nasal cataract and generally more curable.

ert's gloomy views, and while it repudiates his suspicions of Germany, says it cannot hide from itself either the actual or contingent difficulties involved in this most disagreeable undertaking.

**People Are United.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The consul general of Venezuela in this city today received the following cablegram: CARACAS, Dec. 17.—Bankers, bar, commerce, society and clergy constituted in committee, approve the government's attitude and offer President Castro their aid unreservedly. J. G. BORRERO CARDEN.

Secretary of the President. Secretary Hay has cabled to Ambassador Tower at Berlin, says the World's correspondent at Washington, to ask the German government to define for this country exactly what is meant by a "peaceful blockade."

The dispatch was couched in the suavest language, but it was insisted that Germany should reply. This inquiry was decided upon at the cabinet meeting, where it was discussed fully.

If Germany insists on its right to blockade peacefully and refuses to let American ships through, then Admiral Dewey's fleet will be sent to Venezuela to convoy American ships through the German and English lines. Admiral Dewey has been told to keep his fleet together.

The administration is waiting Germany's answer with some anxiety. The situation is now more critical than it has been since the trouble began.

**Revolutionists Will Oppose Castro.**

Senor Rojas, agent in this island of the Venezuelan revolutionists, according to the Herald's Port of Spain (Trinidad) correspondent, denies the report that they have joined common cause with Castro against the allies.

The contrary, according to reports received, the government troops under General Velutini have been twice defeated by the revolutionists, first at Guira and second at El Chico, where they were completely routed and fled in disorder.

Moreover, it is reported from Alta Gracia that the revolutionists, and the people, revolutionists, is marching on Caracas with the object of capturing the city and overthrowing Castro.

The rebels in Trinidad believe that if Boland's movement proves successful he will elect a new president who will treat with England and Germany and thus quickly end the difficulty.

**Stand with President Castro.**

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec. 17.—The Costa Rica government will not discuss the Venezuelan situation, but it can be said on good authority that the ministers favor President Castro's attitude.

Public feeling here is bitter against the British and German action. The United States is much criticized and the Monroe doctrine is ridiculed. Finally, President Castro is looked upon as setting a good example to Spanish-America.

**MARAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec. 17.—**

The Nicaraguan government, and people view the action of Great Britain and Germany toward Venezuela with great indignation.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 17.—The Belgian claims amount to several million francs. They arise chiefly from the nonpayment of interest on Venezuelan bonds, and the purchase of money for the Water Works company at Caracas, which was promoted by a Belgian company.

**PERU IS NOW ASKED TO PAY**

France Will Reiterate Demand for Sixteen Millions Awarded by Arbitration Court.

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 17.—The French legation presented to the Peruvian government on November 17 a claim for \$16,900,940 in favor of the Peruvian bondholders. In accordance with the finding of the Lausanne court of arbitration.

Up to the present the government has made no reply and it is probable the French legation will tomorrow reiterate its request for a settlement in stronger language.

**CONFER ON A LEASING BILL**

(Continued from First Page.)

The citizens of Hot Springs, S. D., and the grounds of the public school in that city for the purpose of preventing undesirable encroachments and of securing an additional entrance to the sanitarium.

**ROUTINE OF DEPARTMENTS.**

Postmaster appointed: Nebraska—Reinhold G. Hillweber, Mira Creek, Valley county, vice A. Ward, resigned. Iowa—Selma Wood, Tioga, Mahaska county, Wyoming—Martin Van Itlin, Grant county, Laramie county.

Moses H. Bantz has been appointed substitute clerk in the postoffice at Independence, Ia.

**WATER BEGINS TO REcede**

Mines in the Anthracite Region Are Only Slightly Damaged by Floods.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—Reports received today from the mining region are to the effect that the waters are fast receding and the damage to mines will not be so great as was first expected.

**FORMER GOVERNOR BANKRUPT**

Warrenton Sugar Plantations in Louisiana Are Placed in the Hands of a Receiver.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—On an application of Harry L. Laws of the firm of James H. Laws & Co., of Cincinnati, Judge Parker in the United States circuit court today appointed A. B. Wheeler receiver for the Magnolia and other sugar plantations of former Governor Warrenton in Plaquemine parish.

**DENVER MAYOR GETS WRIT**

City Legislators Win Writ for Freedom in State Supreme Court.

DENVER, Dec. 17.—The supreme court today issued a writ of supercedens in the case of the mayor and eleven aldermen sentenced for contempt.

The case was taken to the supreme court on a writ of error.

**JUGGLE WITH MINERS' WAGES**

Operators Present Misleading Figures to Goal Strike Commission.

COMPANIES ASK THAT UNION BE BARRED

Claim in Opening that Recognition of Men's Organization is Not an Issue Under Terms of Reference to Arbitrators.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 17.—The operators opened their case today before the strike commission and began calling witnesses.

At the morning session the miners challenged the fairness of certain wage statements handed by the Pennsylvania Coal company, and in the afternoon Mr. Darrow had a spirited discussion with the chairman as to whether the miners had a right to know who was paying the lawyers representing the non-union men.

Mr. Darrow took exception to the attempt to rule out the question of recognizing the union and then Ira H. Burns opened for the independents.

It seems to us that the questions, so far as they concern individual operators, may be considered under three general heads: First, Wages.

Second, Hours of labor.

Proceeding, the chairman asked that the miners' union, as such, should not be considered by the commission, and went on to say that the question of wages should be settled separately for each colliery.

He continued: "We understand it one of the chief duties of the commission is to ascertain the value of labor in and about the mines. It is purely a business question. The value of the labor and not the necessities of the laborer that we are trying to ascertain."

Mr. Darrow asked if it were not the operators' duty to show the union responsible for the alleged violence committed during the strike.

The question of the wage statements came up as a result of further inquiry into child labor.

Today the miners placed two parents on the stand who swore their earnings, as stated to the commission yesterday, were divided among four to six men.

This surprised the commissioners, and Judge Gray asked if the figures were taken from the wage statement already filed by the company, and Mr. Warren replied in the affirmative.

The chairman then requested counsel to indicate whether the figures given were for one, two or more men.

"We don't say it shames our faith in the statement," he continued, "but unless you can show that there are cases, such as are suggested by this testimony, it will materially shake our faith in it."

W. A. May stated that the Pennsylvania Coal company had two systems, one where four men worked in a place and another in which there were only two men, but the company did not keep a record of the number concerned in any contract.

It only kept the names of the men in whose names the place was run.

The company, he said, did not pay the laborer, it only paid the man in whose name the place was run.

Mr. Darrow cross-examined and Mr. May said he did not know whether two, four or six men worked to earn the money indicated on the memorandum, adding that he got the figures from the auditor.

"You saw these figures hand d to me, to the newspapers and to the commission, and you did not state to any one that you did not know how many men shared in the money earned," said Mr. Darrow.

"I did not say anything about it either one way or the other," replied Mr. May.

Mr. Darrow, thereupon, directly challenged the good faith of Mr. May who handed the figures to the company's attorney for presentation to the strike commission.

It is unfair to have given them to the commission without indicating how many workmen's earnings were represented.

Operators Sum Up Case, and Mr. Wolverton formally opened for the operators by reading a statement, which represented the views of all the large companies, as follows:

All the anthracite coal in the United States is found in a few counties of Pennsylvania. The mining area is very different in different fields, and even in the same mine, that it is not practicable to operate the same method of mining for the whole region.

The respondents will show that it is the acknowledged purpose of the Mine Workers of America to organize all coal mines employed by a monopoly of the labor needed for the comfort and prosperity of the American people.

After the strike settlement of 1900 union men refused to work with nonunion men and there were over 100 strikes in one year in various parts of the anthracite region. Unworkable mines were closed and the United Mine Workers ordered a strike May 12, 1902, though a large part of the miners were nonunion.

Men were prevented by violence from filling the strikers' places; mines were filled with water, and the best efforts for the operators' strenuous efforts to keep pumps going, few miners would have been permitted to work after the resumption. Had the union succeeded in stopping the pumps, little or no coal would have been furnished the public in the winter of 1902.

The respondents concede the right of labor to organize for its protection and to benefit the conditions of the laborer, but they feel that to subject the industry to a bituminous coal organization, composed of bona fide miners and in the ruin of the anthracite coal business in Pennsylvania.

**Bare Union Recognition.**

It has been conceded during the progress of this hearing that the union is a legal organization and the appointment of the commission and the powers and duties of the commission, signed by the presidents of the coal companies, dated October 13, 1902, and the acceptance of this agreement by the convention of the striking mine workers; and that the powers of this commission are confined to the recognition of the rates of wages paid and the reduction of the hours of labor, and in no way involves the question of recognition or entering into any agreement with that organization as to the settlements of claims filed by the complainants.

The respondents will show that after the settlement of 1900 there was a concerted effort on the part of the miners to restrict the output, evidently to prevent the producers from accumulating a stock of coal to meet emergencies such as floods, lands and strikes, and which was ordered in May there was less than one month's supply of coal in the market.

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**FUNDS TO FIGHT TRUSTS**

House Votes Half Million to Aid War on Monopolistic Combines.

PROPOSAL PASSES WITHOUT OPPOSITION

Only Discussion is as to Best Means to Strengthen Original Motion Submitted, with Result that Large Sum is Appropriated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Mr. Bartlett, a Georgia democrat, during the consideration of the legislation appropriation bill in the house sprang an amendment to appropriate \$500,000 to enforce the Sherman anti-trust law and to direct the attorney general to proceed against all violations.

Although such a provision was plainly amenable to a point of order, not a member on either side raised objection. Both sides wheeled into line and all agreed that such action was advisable.

Some of the republicans, however, raised objection to the looseness of the amendment and Mr. Hepburn (Ia.) offered as a substitute in the language of the bill he introduced on the opening day to appropriate \$250,000 for the enforcement of the law. This was further strengthened to make the appropriation immediately available, and as amended the substitute was agreed to without division. The legislative bill was passed practically as it came from the committee except for this amendment.

Motion is Specific.

The Hepburn amendment as adopted is as follows: For the enforcement of the provisions of the act of June 20, 1890, the sum of \$500,000 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not heretofore appropriated to be expended under the direction of the attorney general in the enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law, and to direct the attorney general to conduct proceedings, suits and prosecutions under said act in the courts of the United States.

Provided, that no person shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty of forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he has made a bona fide contract or commitment or otherwise, in any proceeding, suit or prosecution under said act; provided further, that the presentation by the state of Maryland of the status of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and John Hanson, president of the continental congress. These are now in statutory form.

A resolution was adopted setting aside Saturday, January 31, after 3 p. m., for the exercises in connection with the acceptance of these statutes. The house then resumed the consideration of the legislative appropriation bill.

Mr. Bartlett (Ga.) offered an amendment appropriating \$250,000 to enable the attorney general to prosecute the violators of the anti-trust laws.

Mr. Hepburn (Ia.) offered a substitute increasing the amount to \$500,000. Mr. Cannon (Ill.) endorsed the latter amendment. Mr. Hepburn said the whole country was agitated over this subject.

Mr. Bartlett wanted Mr. Hepburn to incorporate in his amendment a provision directing the attorney general to proceed with prosecutions against the violators of the anti-trust laws.

Mr. Bartlett said the attorney general should be criticized because he had not enforced the anti-trust laws. He said there has been no representative of the people's interest in the White House cabinet or on the federal bench in the fight against the trusts.

Mr. Grosvenor (O.) said the Sherman anti-trust law was a republican measure, while a democratic administration had cast doubt on its constitutionality. Mr. Hepburn's amendment was adopted without division.

Without further amendment the bill was passed. The committee then were called. The unfinished business was to prohibit military and naval bands from competing with civilian bands.

**OPERATORS ARE TOO SINCERE**

Mitchell Says Adherence to False Principles Has Prolonged Coal Troubles.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 17.—John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, was asked tonight during an impromptu oration in his honor:

"What do you believe is the cause of the prolongation of the trouble between the miners and the operators?"

"Principles," said the president of some of the captive miners. "I believe that Mr. Baer and some of the coal barons are sincere and mean everything they say, but they have wrong ideas and principles, and it is next to impossible to get them to acknowledge the facts. Mr. Baer, in my opinion, is the best man, and lives according to his principles."

**POTTERS HOLD A MEETING**

Will Attempt to Agree on Prices Which Have Been Demoralized for Months.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 17.—Nearly 200 manufacturers of the United States are meeting at a Hotel securing a price for their product to reach an agreement on prices, which have been demoralized for several months.

Twenty million dollars of capitalization and about \$12,000,000 in annual output is represented at the meeting. The session may last several days.

Wright wrongs no man. Wright's old fashioned buckwheat flour is pure.

**FORECAST OF THE WEATHER**

Rain in Nebraska Today and Fair Tomorrow, With Iowa Fair Two Fair Days.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Forecast: Nebraska—Rain Thursday; warmer in west portion; Friday, fair.

Iowa—Fair Thursday and Friday. Illinois—Fair Thursday; fresh west winds; Friday, fair.

Colorado—Fair Thursday; Friday, probably snow.

Montana—Fair Thursday; warmer in south and east extreme northwest portions; Friday, fair; except probably snow in northwest portion.

Wyoming—Fair; warmer Thursday; Friday, fair, except snow in southeast portion.

North Dakota—Fair Thursday; warmer in northwest portion; Friday, fair.

South Dakota—Fair; warmer Thursday; Friday, fair.

Kansas—Fair Thursday; warmer in north and west portions; Friday, fair in east, rain or snow in west portion.

Local Record.

OFFICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU, OMAHA, DEC. 17.—Official record of temperature and precipitation compared with corresponding day of the last three years:

Maximum temperature	1902	1901	1900	1899
Minimum temperature	12	-4	21	30
Mean temperature	22	-3	47	54
Normal mean temperature	38	38	38	38
Record of temperature and precipitation at Omaha for this day and since March 1, 1902:				
Normal temperature	35			
Deficiency for the day	23			
Normal precipitation	1.00			
Deficiency for the day	.43			
Normal precipitation since March 1	.81			
Deficiency for year period	.40			
Deficiency for year period, 1901	.43			

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Omaha, clear	27	31	30
North Platte, clear	24	24	30
Lincoln, clear	24	24	30
Beatrice, clear	24	24	30
St. Joseph, clear	24	24	30
Huron, clear	24	24	30
Williston, clear	24	24	30
Rapid City, clear	24	24	30
Spearhead, clear	24	24	30
Sioux Falls, clear	24	24	30
St. Paul, part cloudy	24	24	30
Davenport, clear	24	24	30
Des Moines, clear	24	24	30
Harvey, cloudy	24	24	30
Helena, clear	24	24	30
Butte, clear	24	24	30
Galveston, clear	24	24	30

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER.

Temperature	27	31	30
Relative humidity	65	65	65
Wind	W	W	W
Force	12	12	12
Direction	W	W	W
Clouds	0	0	0
Thunder	0	0	0
Lightning	0	0	0
Rain	0	0	0
Snow	0	0	0
Fog	0	0	0
Ice	0	0	0
Freezing	0	0	0
Clear	0	0	0
Partly cloudy	0	0	0
Cloudy	0	0	0
Drizzle	0	0	0
Sleet	0	0	0
Storm	0	0	0

It makes the toilet something to be enjoyed. It removes all stains and roughness, prevents prickly heat and chafing, and leaves the skin white, soft, healthy. In the bath it brings a glow and exhilaration which no common soap can equal, imparting the vigor and life sensation of a mild Turkish bath. ALL GROCERS AND DRUGGISTS.

**HAND SAPOLIO**

FOR TOILET AND BATH

**FUNDS TO FIGHT TRUSTS</**