

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 as assistant to the American minister temporarily.

The office 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 requires 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 was 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 no 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 clear 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 note that he could make no announcement as to 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.

The Times, without endorsing Sir Robert's views, says that the blockade is a chronic cold in the head, which if long neglected often destroys the sense and hearing; but there are many other forms of the disease even more obstinate and dangerous.

Catarrh of the throat and bronchial tubes, as well as catarrh of the stomach and liver, are almost as common as nasal catarrh and generally more common than any other form of the disease even more obstinate and dangerous.

Catarrh is undoubtedly a blood disease and can only be successfully eradicated by an internal treatment. Sprays, washes and powders are useless, as far as reaching the real seat of the disease is concerned.

Dr. Mciverly advises catarrh sufferers to use a new preparation, sold by all druggists, called Stuart's Catarrh Tablets, because actual analysis has shown these tablets to contain certain antiseptic qualities of the highest value, and being an internal remedy, pleasant to the taste, convenient and harmless, can be used as freely as required, as well for children as for adults.

An attorney and public speaker, who had been a catarrh sufferer for years, says: "Every fall I would catch a cold which would settle in my head and throat and hang on all winter long, and every winter it seemed to get a little worse. I was continually clearing my throat and my voice became affected to such an extent as to interfere with my public speaking. I tried troches and cheap cough cures and sometimes got relief, but only for a short time, until this winter when I learned of the new catarrh cure, Stuart's Catarrh Tablets, through a newspaper advertisement. Two City-cure cures which I bought at my druggist's cleared my head and throat in five days, and to guard against a return of my old trouble I keep a box of the tablets on hand and whenever I catch a little cold I take a tablet or two and ward off any serious developments. Stuart's Catarrh Tablets deserves to be had the list as a household remedy, to check and break up coughs and colds, because, unlike many other catarrh and cough cures, these tablets contain no opiate, cocaine or any injurious drug."

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. JORRRES CARDIN, Secretary to 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 to the Venezuelan inquiry. 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, the help of the 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 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 15 a claim for \$16,900,000 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.

Postmaster appointed: Nebraska—Reinhold G. Hillwege, Mira Creek, Valley county, vice A. Ward, resigned. Iowa—Selma Woods, Tiesha, Mahaska county, Wyoming—Martin Van Itlin, Granite Canon, Laramie county.

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

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 protested at this and claimed in reply that it was not the operators who were barred from presenting testimony 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.

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

"We don't say it shows 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 name 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, and said that it was unfair to have given them to the commission without indicating how many workmen's earnings were represented.

Operators Sum Up Case, and Mr. Wolverson formally opened for the operators by reading a statement, which reported the opinion 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 any one system of mining for the whole region.

The respondents will show that it is the acknowledged purpose of the United Mine Workers of America to organize all coal mines employed in Pennsylvania, and to form 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 conditions were created by the United Mine Workers ordered a strike May 12, 1902, though a large part of the miners were opposed to it.

Men were prevented by violence from filling the strikers' places; mines were filled with water, and the best coal was being lost; the work for the resumption. Had the union succeeded in stopping the pumps, little 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 both union and nonunion men, is in the ruin of the anthracite coal business in Pennsylvania.

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 some such action was desirable.

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 \$500,000 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 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 no previous notice or knowledge, or otherwise, in any proceeding, suit or prosecution under said act; provided, further, that no person shall be held liable for or subjected to any penalty or punishment for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he has no previous notice or knowledge, or otherwise, in any proceeding, suit or prosecution under said act.

When the house convened a bill was passed to amend the act of June 6, 1900, which authorizes the sale of stone and timber for use in the Indian Territory, so as to provide for its sale to railroads parts of whose lines are in the territory.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from Governor Smith of Maryland notifying the house of 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 Hansen, president of the continental congress. These are now in statutory hall.

A resolution was adopted setting aside Saturday, January 31, after 3 p. m., for the exercises in connection with the acceptance of these statues. 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, but this Mr. Hepburn objected, because it contained a reflection on the attorney general.

Mr. Bartlett said the attorney general should be criticized because he had not enforced the anti-trust laws. He said there had 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 upon 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.

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Mitchell Says Adherence to False Principles Has Prolonged Coal Troubles.

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

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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 no previous notice or knowledge, or otherwise, in any proceeding, suit or prosecution under said act; provided, further, that no person shall be held liable for or subjected to any penalty or punishment for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which he has no previous notice or knowledge, or otherwise, in any proceeding, suit or prosecution under said act.

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DRAWING TO A CLOSE

A. Hospe's Extraordinary "End of the Year Sale" Good

Pianos. Magnificent Stock to Select From and Prices Cut in Two on Many.

AT FACTORY PRICES AND LESS

Magnificent Stock to Select From and Prices Cut in Two on Many.

Payments So Easy, Prices So Low, That A1 Can Buy. \$1.00 Per Week Up On Pianos.

Open Evenings, 1515 Douglas

From the balance of unsold pianos in this "End of the Year Sale" we take seven instruments and feature them as illustrations of the great bargains to be had at this sale.

One "Richmond" upright piano, inexpensive dark case, tripple string, full metal plate, three pedals; was \$150, now \$75; cash or payments, \$4 monthly.

One "C. D. Pease" upright piano in a pretty but plain rosewood case, medium size, three strings, full scale, was \$185, now \$95; cash or payments, \$5 monthly.

Large cabinet grand "Hoffmann" piano, four feet, ten inches high, in genuine mohogany veneered case, rolling full board, patent dust rest, three pedals and soft stop; it is low in the regular retail way at \$225, now only \$135. Another Hootie Bros. for \$145; cash or payments, \$5 monthly.

"Hinton" upright, rosewood finish case, plain but pretty, rolling full board, three pedals and patent soft stop, strictly standard quality throughout, was \$250, now \$175; cash or payments, \$6 monthly.

"Hiller & Co. new" upright, handsome mottled walnut case, one of the oldest makes, has dust rest and roll full board, hand carved panels, full scale, guaranteed fully; was \$250, now \$150.

"Whitney" cabinet grand upright, in pretty English oak case, carved panels, three pedals and soft stop, guaranteed standard quality throughout, will last a lifetime; was \$325, now \$215. Terms, cash or \$7 monthly.

"Hallett & Davis" upright grand you need not be told that H. & D. is one of the best pianos in this country, for sixty-five years it has been the Boston favorite; a thoroughly artistic piano in every manner; was \$375, now \$245. Terms cash or payments \$8 or \$10 monthly.