

made daily on the beach at La Guayra and it is feared they may be the object of some demonstration. At Caracas everything is quiet. President Castro went to the Victoria today.

In an interview today Lopez Baralt, minister of foreign affairs, said he had not been informed of a declaration of war by Great Britain.

"I am greatly surprised at the news that such a step should be taken," he said. "I had believed that the matter was approaching a settlement, Venezuela having offered to submit unconditionally to the arbitration of the United States minister or President Roosevelt. Venezuela does not regard the existing blockade as tantamount to a state of war, but the country is prepared to resist to the utmost."

**Germany Shows Anxiety.**  
BERLIN, Dec. 24.—Germany is anxious to receive President Roosevelt's acceptance of the formal invitation from Germany and Great Britain to act as arbitrator in the Venezuela controversy.

The German government's preference is very decidedly in favor of arbitration through President Roosevelt, because it believes the president will reach an early decision, whereas the Hague court would require many months. The officials here also insist that it is to the United States' advantage to have the president decide the matter.

The German steamer Sibiria, which sailed from Hamburg for Venezuela yesterday, carried an expert on international law, who will act as counsel for Commodore Scherrer on technical legal questions arising during the blockade.

Commodore Scherrer reports that the German blockade of Puerto Cabello began December 22 and that the blockade of Maracaibo by the Germans commenced today.

**Matia Will Not Land.**  
PARIS, Dec. 24.—The only official attention given here to the Venezuelan blockade is an announcement of the Postoffice department that the mail boats leaving Bordeaux and Marseilles will cease to touch at La Guayra, Puerto Cabello and Caracas, and all correspondence for Venezuela will be sent to Port de France, Martinique, during the blockade.

**Italy Easy to Please.**  
ROME, Dec. 24.—Italy's reply to the arbitration proposal of Venezuela through Minister Bowen and the government of the United States, among other things, says Italy would be pleased for arbitration settled by President Roosevelt, and adds that if not thus settled Italy will have no objection to reference to the Hague tribunal.

**GIBBONS SENDS GREETINGS.**  
Writes Christmas Letter to the Pope, Other Cardinals and Catholic Crowned Heads.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—Cardinal Gibbons, in accordance with the annual custom, has sent letters of greeting appropriate to the season of Christmas to the pope and each of the cardinals, numbering over sixty, throughout the world.

His eminence has likewise sent a letter to each of the Catholic crowned heads, including the emperor of Austria, the king of Spain, the king and queen of Portugal, the king of the Belgians, the king of Saxony and the prince regent of Bavaria.

The cardinal sends these Christmas letters to the monarchs every year, in accordance with the custom, as he himself is prince of the Catholic church. Being an American, however, the title is merely one of form in his case.

**ROB AN ILLINOIS POSTOFFICE.**  
Safe Blown Open and Cash, Stamps and Registered Mail Are Taken.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Dec. 24.—The gang of bank and postoffice robbers which has been at work in this vicinity recently cleaned out the postoffice at Towanda last night.

One hundred dollars in money and all the stamps and registered mail, estimated in value at from \$500 to \$1,000, was taken. As usual, there is no clue.

**FIRE RECORD.**  
Overturned Lamp Starts Fire.

CORNING, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Lawrence, Toga county, Pennsylvania, was visited by a disastrous fire today. It originated in springing a lamp from an overturned lamp and all the buildings on one side of Main street were destroyed, including Wing & Bostwick's large department store. The building block and opera house, the Darlington block and five other stores were burned. The loss is more than \$50,000.

**Four Buildings Destroyed.**  
SIBLEY, Ia., Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Last night fire destroyed four frame buildings worth \$4,000 and destroyed merchandise valued at \$3,000. Insurance on the buildings is in a firm. John Deboe, \$500; Mr. Lister, \$500; Miss Anderson, \$1,500.

**Bank Building Burned.**  
CORBINA, Mich., Dec. 24.—Fire which broke out early today has destroyed the First National bank building and several other business blocks and is still burning. The loss will be heavy.

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He is still alive, but will die. It is thought the shooting was the result of a quarrel.

**HOSPITAL GOES UP IN SMOKE.**  
Fire Destroys Acheson, Topeka & Santa Fe Institution at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., Dec. 24.—The Acheson, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad hospital has been totally destroyed by fire, which is supposed to have originated from

**WELCH LOWRY UNDER ARREST**

Sheriff King of Stanton Finally Locates His Man in Omaha.

**FINAL CHAPTER IN EXCITING MAN HUNT**  
Is Wanted on the Charge of Kidnaping and Assaulting Anna Blilwa on Night of September 14 Last.

STANTON, Neb., Dec. 24.—(Special.)—Sheriff King went down to Omaha and returned with Welch Lowry, who is now quartered in the local jail. Lowry is the man who abducted Anna Blilwa from the residence of W. S. Bordner, near Stanton, in September last, and who was the objective of an exciting man hunt. In spite of the efforts made to trace his whereabouts from the next day after the crime was committed. On that day he was seen to enter a cornfield across the river from Stanton and it was believed that the posse had him surrounded, but he gave them the slip. Later it was reported that he was arrested at Onawa, but the prisoner proved to be another man and was promptly released.

Sheriff King never gave up the search and a few days ago located his man in Missouri. Later it was reported that he was on his way to Omaha, the sheriff waiting patiently until Lowry set foot on Nebraska soil and then arrested him and brought him to Stanton.

**Story of the Crime.**  
The crime with which Lowry stands charged is one of the most daring in the criminal history of the state. He was snared with Anna Blilwa, but she refused to have anything to do with him on account of his disreputable habits. On the night of September 14 of this year Lowry came to the residence of W. S. Bordner, where the Blilwa girl was working, put a ladder up to the second-story window and entered the room where she was sleeping with the two little daughters of her employer. His victim was compelled at the point of a revolver to arise, dress and accompany him. The children were told that if they made any outcry he would return and kill their parents, and in this way they were kept quiet, not daring to make any outcry until morning, when their parents came to call them. In this manner Lowry, with his victim, had a good start of the posse which was organized for pursuit.

He took to the sandhills with his victim, who, according to her story, he repeatedly assaulted. Late in the afternoon she took advantage of the approach of some neighbors, who attracted Lowry's attention, and escaped, making her way to the home of her brother, where she arrived in an exhausted condition, and for several days was in a state of total collapse, but has since fully recovered.

The posse bent up the pursuit for several days, but Lowry finally eluded them and made his way out of the country.

**EXPERIMENT ON DYING MAN**  
Doctors Stretch the Neck of Patient to Restore Consciousness, but He Dies Instead.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 24.—In an attempt to relieve the pressure on the brain and restore a dying man to consciousness, in order to secure an anti-mortem statement, physicians last night stretched the neck of William F. Hackett, whose throat had been slashed by his stepson in a quarrel at their home last year, and who had since died. The most strenuous efforts were made to rally the dying man for a final interval of consciousness, wherein he might make a statement. The physicians adjusted a stretching apparatus to his head, drawing it away from the shoulders. Hackett died.

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PARIS, Dec. 24.—As a result of conferences between M. Combes and the minister of justice complete arrangements have been made for the reception of the members of the Humbert family, now under arrest. The precaution has been taken not to disclose what prison the fugitives will occupy, or whether they will be taken from the train, as a public demonstration is feared. The government authorities are showing great activity in preparing for the prosecution.

M. Henniffe, chief of detectives, who has sought Humbert, is accompanied by four civil guards, four police inspectors and two of the best detectives in the service. It is expected they will occupy a special car with the prisoners, whose arrival is awaited in Paris with intense interest.

The affair continues to be the universal topic for discussion and even affects the Christmas holiday, many of the novelties depicting phases in the case. One of these is a miniature of Humbert's safe, as empty as the distribution of 500 loaves of fresh warm bread, which will be given out to the needy poor Christmas morning. The delegation was referred by the chief to the Salvation Army headquarters, on Capitol avenue, where the food will be dispensed under the direction of Health Officer Woolridge.

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Governor Offers Reward for Arrest of Those Forcing Negroes to Migrate.

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The matter will be called to the attention of the record committee and an investigation will be made to see if other weights thrown records made with this weight. The test showed that the weights are an ounce and a half lighter than the standard measure from a half to two and a quarter inches too little.

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Charles Bloom of 108 Barnum street and Mrs. M. J. Bloom of 108 Barnum street will spend Christmas in the city jail, because Charles has such a poor memory when under the influence of holiday stimulants. He had a pocketbook with \$15 in it in his pocket on the evening of the party. After he had been at Mary's for a while he felt it was time to go home and he took the pocketbook with him. He found it empty when he returned home, and he was unable to remember where he had left it. The police found it in the pocket of a man who had been drinking with him at the party.

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The first annual dance of the Friendship club, an organization of colored waiters, was held last evening in the Washington hall. The severity of the night made the attendance smaller than it would otherwise have been, a number of waiters, who were donated by merchants, were given during the evening to the handsome woman and feast appearing in the hall. The dancing, which was presided over by Mrs. W. J. Jackson is president and T. Van, vice president, was very successful.

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Forty Miles an Hour Wind Helps to Demoralize South Dakota Traffic.

**KANSAS SUFFERS FROM ZERO WEATHER**  
Iowa and Northern States Feel Fury of Ice Blast When Mercury Tumbles, Tempests Howl and Drifts Pile Deep on Tracks.

HURON, S. D., Dec. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Railroading over this section of the state is badly demoralized today by snow filling the cuts and low places. A forty miles an hour wind has prevailed since Tuesday afternoon and the snow is packed in solid drifts. All trains on the Waterbury-Huron division of the Great Northern are blocked south of Benson. The Northwestern division has experienced more difficulty in moving trains today than at any time last winter. No trains west of here are running and none west of here until this afternoon and none west of here until this afternoon and none west of here until this afternoon.

**Iowa Also Suffers.**  
LA CROSSE, Wis., Dec. 24.—A severe blizzard is prevailing in this section. Over three inches of snow has fallen and it is getting colder.

Railroad traffic in and out of the city is considerably delayed. The storm is reported general in the Dakotas, Iowa and Minnesota and the lake region.

**MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 24.**—Dispatches from various points in Minnesota and Wisconsin indicate a heavy snowfall and rapidly falling temperatures. The mercury in the Red-river valley is 12 below and will reach 20 below or more before morning.

**MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 24.**—The entire state of Wisconsin is in the grip of icy winter, being swept by blizzards. The thermometer has been falling steadily for two or three days. In northern Wisconsin the drifting snow is impeding traffic.

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 24.**—A heavy blizzard has been raging here since 6 o'clock this evening and trains on all roads are from three to five hours late. At midnight the storm was still raging furiously.

**Washington is Visited.**  
SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 24.—The worst storm that has visited this section this season has been raging for thirty-six hours. There are nine snow slides on the Pacific division and five dirt slides on the coast lines from the rains in this vicinity. No trains have arrived here today.

**EVERETT, Wash., Dec. 24.**—A fierce snowstorm is raging along the line of the Great Northern. A snow slide at Madison carried away the railroad bridges last night, forcing the Great Northern to be cut-bound overland to continue on the tracks of the Northern Pacific.

**SPRINGVILLE, Ariz., Dec. 24.**—Prof. Jacob Barnhart, the state geologist, was accidentally killed here today while shooting sparrows. He was a son of the late Major General John H. Forney of the confederate army.

**LOCAL BREVITIES.**  
Perry Phillips of 1113 Capitol avenue was arrested by Officer Ryan yesterday afternoon and charged with petit larceny.

Mr. George W. Miller of Northrup, Neb., and Miss Katherine M. Doggett were married Wednesday afternoon by Rev. Charles W. Savidge at his residence.

Burning rags in a chimney hole in the residence of George H. Hart, 267 Caldwell street, caused the fire which broke out Wednesday afternoon at 2:41 o'clock; \$20 damage.

Last evening at 7:20 fire was started in the house occupied by Henry Gracka at 212 North Twentieth street by a Christmas tree, which fell and struck the gas pipe before the arrival of the department, with a damage of only \$5.

At 8:15 yesterday evening the fire department was called to 80 North Twenty-fourth street, where the story and a half frame occupied by Mrs. Minnie Rosaker and for which G. S. Benawa is agent, and Charles W. Savidge at his residence, were destroyed by fire. The blaze was caused by some papers becoming ignited.

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