FRIENDLY TERMS RESUMED

WE MAKE UP WITH VENEZUELA

Special Commissioner Buchanan Now on His Way to the South American Republic to Make an Investigation and Forward a Report to Washington—Much Depends Upon the Nature of That Report, But it is Thought That the New Order of Affairs Opens the Way For a Settlement of the Troubles of the Republic, Not Only With This Country But With Other Nations With Which Venezuela is at Daggers' Points.

Washington, Dec. 23.—After an interval of eight months the United States government has resumed friendly relations with Venezuela, and William I. Buchanan has left this country on the cruiser North Carolina in the capacity of a special commissioner to visit that country, look into the situation and make a report. Much will depend on the nature of the communications which he will make to the State Department, among them the question whether the United States will accord formal recognition to the government as it now exists, a decision dependent upon its ability to maintain a stable institution and to fulfill its treaty obligations.

The possibility that disorder may arise is indicated in the expression of a desire for an American warship at LaGuaira, to which this government has promptly responded.

Secretary Root's face wore a pleased expression to-day when he made the announcement that it was President Gomez's wish to settle satisfactorily all international questions.

OPENS THE WAY.

The general opinion is that the new order of things will open the way for the pacific settlement in some form of the issues not alone between this country and Venezuela but between the latter country also and Holland and France. Word came to the State Department that the Netherlands government had given directions that the military operations which have been conducted against Venezuela cease, following the news of the suspension of the decree by Venezuela regarding the trans-shipmnt of merchandise from Curacao to Venezuelan ports.

The refusal in March last by the Castro administration to consider separately the questions of controversy between the two countries made it plain that diplomacy could accomplish nothing further toward their settlement. This deadlock was made clear to the United States Senate, but Congress adjourned without taking any action in the matter. The five claims which form the basis of the last negotiations were those of A. F. Jaurett, who was expelled from the country; the Orinoco Corporation, the Orinoco Steamship Company, the New York and Bermudez Asphalt Company and the United States and Venezuelan Company, the amounts involved running nominally into millions of dollars. These claims are among those which President Gomez in general terms has expressed a wish to settle satisfactorily. It was Castro's refusal to arbitrate them that led to the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Venezuela. By what measures they are to be settled is a question for the future.

IRRITATING DECREE REVOKED.

Document That Made Most of the Trouble Between Venezuela and Holland is Suspended—The Announcement Made to Parliament by the Dutch Foreign Minister.

The Hague, Dec. 22.—The revocation of the trans-shipment decree of May 14th by the Venezuelan government was announced in the lower House of Parliament this afternoon by Foreign Minister VanSwinderen. It was this decree that made most of the trouble between Venezuela and the Netherlands. Under its terms the trans-shipment of goods at Willemstad destined for Venezuela was prohibited, and its operations worked much injury to the commerce of the Dutch island. The Foreign Minister said also that the Dutch naval operations along the Venezuelan coast had been suspended at the request of Acting President Gomez.

The Foreign Minister's words were as follows.

"Following the discovery of a plot against the life of the Vice President of Venezuela, Juan Vicente Gomez, a new ministry was formed and some of the supporters of President Gomez were cast into prison.

"On December 21st acting President Gomez, as an evidence of friendliness and pending later negotiations by duly appointed delegates, ordered a stay of execution of the degree of May 14th and expressed the hope that the Netherlands similarly would suspend the naval demonstration in Venezuelan waters.

"Pending the re-establishment of a Venezuelan consulate at Curacao the German consul there has been authorized to grant shipping clearances."

CASTRO ILL AT BERLIN.

Deposed Ruler of the Republic of Venezuela Said to Be in Complete Ignorance of What is Going on at Home—Occupied Primarily in a Fight Against a Serious Malady.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—Ciprano Castro, the dictator of Venezuela, deposed by his people and discredited by his government, is lying on a sick bed in Berlin in complete ignorance of the events at Caracas that have resulted in his downfall.

Castro is reposing in a private sanitarium in this city, the subject of consulation of eminent physicians. The entire forenoor to-day was given up to observation of the patient and consultation on the part of the specialists summoned to examine him.

While all the eyes of the world are turned on this Venezuelan, Castro is occupied primarily in a fight against a serious malady.

One of Castro's associates said today that in view of the confirmation given out by the foreign office of the press reports of the downfall of Castro, the news must be true. It was explained that the new administration at Caracas probably had made it impossible for Castro's friends to communicate with him by cable.

CAN CROSS CHARLESTON BAR.

Pilots' Association Guarantees That There is Plenty of Water at Charleston—Mr. Taft Will, Therefore, Embark at That Port For Panama.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The armored cruiser North Carolina with President-elect Taft aboard and her sister ship, the Montana, accompanying, can be taken across the bar at the entrance to Charleston harbor, with perfect safety at 8 o'clock on the morning of January 25th, according to a guarantee to this effect given by the Pilots' Association of Charleston, S. C., through Commandant Dyer, of the Charleston navy yard, to the Navy Department to-day.

At this hour there is high tide, the water at the bar then being 19 feet deep, while the North Carolina draws 27 feet nine inches. The only provision made by the Pilots' Association is that the weather be clear enough for the marks to be seen and the tide not exceptionally low for high tide.

Mr. Taft therefore, without doubt, will start from Charleston on his Panama trip.

AFFAIRS AT STATE CAPITAL

ANOTHER REPORT TO GOVERNOR

Corporation Commission in Its Letter of Transmission Sets Forth Some Interesting Facts—Six Thousand More Polls Listed This Year Than in 1907.—Exemption of $300 Worth of Personal Property Recommended, as Well as a Number of Other Important Things — State Treasurer to Pay Off Penitentiary Bonds January 1st—Masons Will Dedicate New Rex Hospital January 12th—Number of Charters Granted.

Observer Bureau,
The Holleman Building,
Raleigh, Dec. 23.

The report of the Corporation Commission to the Governor was made public to-day and in the letter to the Governor some interesting facts are set out. The number of polls listed last year was 293,637, an increase of 6,000 over the previous year, and the total assessed value of all property was $575,370,313, an increase of $86,707,745. The income listed for tax last year amounted to $3,667,681, showing an increase of $530,000. The total taxes levied on property and incomes amounted to $10,223,223, of which $2,660,219 was for State purposes, $2,848,376 for county purposes, $2,656,662 for municipal purposes, $1,790,139 for schools and $266,824 for pensions. The total indebtedness is $20,262,837, of which $9,935,037 is due by municipalities, $6,880,950 by the State and $3,446,850 by counties.

The total assessment of all property was $300,709,300 and it is expected that the increased assessment for 1908 over 1907 will approximate a million dollars. The total amount of incomes returned for taxation this year is $31,643,864.

HIGHER EXEMPTION RECOMMENDED.

The Corporation Commission recommends that the Legislature exempt $300 of personal property of every taxpayer instead of $25 as the law now provides, the constitution allowing exemption to an amount not exceeding $300. The Legislature in 1868 exempted $300, but now the exemption has been reduced so it is only $25. When the first general ad valorem tax was provided in this State, it set forth that every person whose estate was $500 or less should pay no tax thereon. The commission thinks it very inconsistent that the same revenue law should exempt all incomes except those over $1,000 and tax such excess only 1 per cent. and allow an exemption in personal property, consisting of household and kitchen furniture, wearing apparel and libraries, to the amount of only $25; and especially is this so when it is considered that the tax rate on property is not less than two-thirds of one per cent. of its value in any case, and that in many places in the State it is 2 1-2 per cent., while the income tax is 1 per cent. on the excess over $1,000.

The Corporation Commission further recommends that the poll tax be not levied except as a State and county tax and that in no case shall the State and county tax combined receive $2 on the head.

Deputy Insurance Commissioner Scott has returned from Kinston, where he prosecuted Aaron Eagar, a fire bug, who gets a 10-year sentence. This is the hundredth man prosecuted for this offense.

The Grand Lodge of Masons will on the afternoon of January 12th, with very impressive ceremonies, lay the cornerstone of the $50,000 Rex Hospital Building, which occupies the site of the old hospital which was originally the town residence of Governor Manley.

A company was chartered to-day with a rather odd name, this being the Dixie Club Grocery Company, of Statesville, to do a wholesale and retail business, the amount of capital stock being $50,000. Another charter went to the Maynard-Crutchfield Company, of Winston-Salem, which is to manufacture, sell and install plumbing supplies and house hardware of all descriptions.

In 1905 it was enacted that no poll tax over $2 should be levied for State and county purposes combined in Mecklenburg and that no city or town there should levy a poll tax over $2. In 1907 this law was made to cover the whole State with the exception of a few counties. The validity of the statute was attacked in Buncombe and Mecklenburg counties on the ground that the commissioners did not observe the equation between property and poll, as so much of the tax levied as was in excess of 66 2-3 cents on the $100 value, but the Supreme Court sustained the statute. In a later decision the court held that a special school district may levy a tax on the poll when submitted to and approved by the qualified voters in an election, in excess of $2. So it is now settled that the State and county capitation tax combined cannot, under the constitution, exceed $2 on the head. The commission says that this statute relieves to some extent from an oppressive poll tax in several towns in the State, but it most earnestly renews its recommendation that no municipality or other quasi-public corporation be permitted to levy a tax on polls. The Corporation Commission hopes that the legislators will read the Supreme Court's opinions in the cases referred to, as these set so forcibly the reason for limiting the poll tax.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

In conclusion the commission urges that statutes authorizing a tax rate greater than 66 2-3 cents on the $100 valuation for State and county taxes combined be not enacted because there are many classes of property which cannot bear a higher tax rate than this and an oppressive tax rate is one of the causes of inequality in assessment and failure or refusal to list property for taxation; and, further, that the municipal tax rate be so limited that when added to the county tax rate on property will not be confiscatory to any class of property, for the total tax levy in many cities and towns is over $2 on $100; that the constitution be so amended as to allow the Legislature to separate sources of taxation so as to specify and determine from what subject State tax and upon what subject local tax shall be levied.

The oppressive features of the property tax arise out of the fact that, under the constitution, State, county and sometimes township or district and city or town taxes are and must be levied on all property.

The income tax has increased from $926,144 in 1906 to $3,642,964 in 1908.

The results of the inheritance tax are disappointing. It fell off from $16,000 in 1905 to $4,673 in 1907. This is attributable to failure to enforce the law. This is one of our wisest tax laws. The State was one of the first in the Union to adopt this tax. The commission recommends that it be made the duty of some central officer to enforce this law, and in order to enable him to do so, that the clerks of the Superior Courts of the State be required to notify such officer of the qualification of all executors and administrators and furnish him copy of inventory or other papers in connection with the estate, as the same may be required by said central officer. The attention of the General Assembly is called to the decision of the Supreme Court in Lumber Company vs. Smith, 145 N. C., 159, in which the court recommends that the machinery act be so amended as to require county commissioners, in listing and assessing property, to notify the delinquent, so that he may have an opportunity to be heard.

State Treasurer Lacy calls attention to the fact that it is highly necessary that sheriffs should pay to him all the tax money on hand by January 1st, as on that day he has to pay $170,000 of penitentary debt bonds.

The Zebulon Horse Company, the object of which is to improve the breed of horses, gets a charter, the capital stock being $20,000.

MEDICINE THAT IS MEDICINE.

"I have suffered a good deal with malaria and stomach complaints, but I have now found a remedy that keeps me well, and that remedy is Electric Bitters; a medicine that is medicine for stomach and liver troubles, and for run down conditions," says W. C. Riestler, of Halliday, Ark. Electric Bitters purify and enrich the blood, tone up the nerves, and impart vigor and energy to the weak. Your money will be refunded if it fails to help you. 50c. at W. L. Hand & Co.'s drug store.

In Whang Chang's Fate With Jury.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—The trial of In Whang Chang, a Korean, charged with the murder of Durham White Stevens, who at the time of his death was adviser of the aJpanese in dealings with Korea, but who had previously been adviser to the oKrean Emperor, and who was shot and killed in San Francisco by Chang on March 23d, ended to-night when the case went to the jury. Chang's counsel contended that the defendant was insane as a result of much brooding over what he believed to be outrages committeed on his fellow countrymen by the Japanese government after the abdication of the Korean Emperor.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—In Whang Chang was guilty of murder first degree of Henry White Stevens.

Uncle Sam's Navy Second Among the Powers.

Wasington, Dec. 23.—Our navy stands second among those of the great world powers at the present time, according to the navy year book, prepared by Pitman Pulsifer, clerk of the Senate navy committee, and now in the hands of the public printer. Germany follows, third, while France has dropped to fourth place and Japan is fifth.

The year book will show that Great Britain has 61 first-class battleships with a tonnage of 910,330, the United States 31 with a tonnage of 449,132, Germany 31 with a tonnage of 414,486, France 26 with a tonnage of 357,132, and Japan 15 with a tonnage of 233,444.

Work to Begin Soon on Wadesboro's Depot.

Special to The Observer.

Wadesboro, Dec. 23.—Mayor Walter Brock received yesterday a letter from the Seaboard officials which advises him that work will begin at an early date on the new union depot. The people are anxious for this improvement for the old shack now occupied as a depot is a disgrace to the town as well as the railway company.

Contract Let For Wofford Library.

Special to The Observer.

Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 23.—The trustees of Wofford College have awarded the contract for the erection of a $25,000 library building to E. L. Hertzog, a well-known contractor of this city. Work on the building will begin about the second week in January. Andrew Carnegie, the steel king, contributed $20,000 to the building.

NEVER TO HEAR HUMAN VOICE

PUNISHMENT DRIVES MEN CRAZY

Those Who Live in Silence Say That to Be Deprived of the Privilege of Hearing the Human Voice is a Torture Beyond Description.

There is no affliction more terrible than that of perpetual silence. Inmates of prisons are unanimous in the statement that there is no rule of their confinement so hard to bear as that which forbids their speaking and hearing the voices of their fellowmen. Through accident and disease, deafness is often inflicted on innocent persons, and when these delicate organs have suffered injury it is an exceedingly difficult problem to restore the sense of hearing. There are a number of remedies which claim to restore lost hearing, but at best the relief afforded is only temporary, and a remedy that can be depended upon to restore the sense of hearing must be numbered among the greatest products of the age. A case recently reported in Charlotte shows that Dillingham's Plant Juice Liniment is a dependable remedy in cases of injured hearing, as shown in the following interesting account of the manner in which J. E. Hughes, a resident of this city, living at 302 East Hill street, had his hearing restored:

"About twenty-one years ago I suffered an injury to my left ear that caused me to become deaf in that ear. The hearing in the other ear was also affected, and I was barely able to hear at all. I could not use a telephone on account of my defective hearing, and could only hear the loudest sound.

"A short time ago I heard of the wonderful cures made by Dillingham's Plant Juice Liniment in cases of partial deafness, and I bought a bottle of the liniment. I applied it according to direction, and was gratified to find that my hearing had been restored. I can now converse over a telephone and clearly distinguish anything spoken in an ordinary tone, and it gives me great pleasure to testify to the great value of Plant Juice Liniment in the treatment of deafness."

This is the story told by all who give this remarkable remedy a trial. It has proved itself an invaluable remedy in the treatment of inflammation of all kinds, stiffness, rheumatism, neuralgia, cuts, bruises, and in all cases where a remedy is needed for the quick relief of pains and soreness. This liniment is one of the famous Plant Juice preparations that have won such popular favor since they were placed on sale in Charlotte by W. L. Hand & Co. They are made and sold on an honorable basis, and guaranteed to accomplish all that is claimed for them, or the money will be refunded after a week's trial, on presentation of the unused portion of the bottle.

Belton, S. C., Postmaster Resigns.

Special to The Observer.

Anderson, S. C., Dec. 23.—Mr. W. C. Brown, Belton's efficient postmaster for the past three or four years, has resigned and Mr. Clarence Clinkscales has been appointed as his successor. Mr. Brown has large farming and other interests in and around Belton and was unable to give the necessary time that those duties demanded and retain the postmastership, and for this reason he decided to resign. During his incumbency the affairs of the office have been conducted in the most courteous and satisfactory manner and he retires with the unalloyed good will of the patrons.

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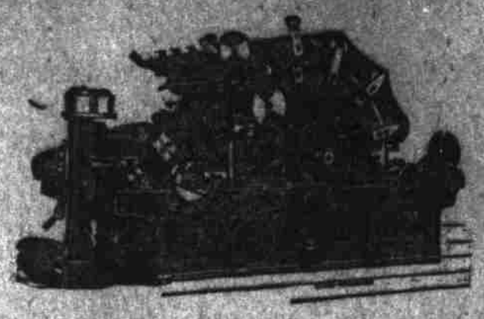

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Oxford	46.00
Raleigh	44.65
Rutherfordton	41.50
Salisbury	42.95
Shelby	41.50
Statesville	42.40

Approximately low rates from other points.

Tickets on sale January 11th, good returning to leave Havana, Cuba, on or before January 27th, 1909. Tickets may be routed through Jacksonville, thence either through Knight's Key, or Port Tampa. Good going and returning same route. Stop-overs will be allowed at Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palm Beach, Miami, and other points south of Jacksonville, within final limit of ticket. A representative will accompany movement, and will look after the comfort and pleasure of the party.

For further information as to side trip tours from Havana, sight-seeing tours, hotel rates, leaving time at principal points, Pullman and state-room reservations, write J. H. Wood, D. P. A., Asheville, N. C., W. H. McGlamery, P. and T. A., Raleigh, N. C., R. H. DeButts, P. and T. A. Greensboro, N. C., or call on your depot agents, or write

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Dear Madam: I had a boil on my forehead about seven years ago and it left a little place like a wart or lump, and at times that lump would get sore and bother me. It bothered me so much I got uneasy about it and tried a cancer remedy, which ate a hole to the skull bone as large as a quarter of a dollar or larger. The place would not heal up and got to looking very bad. After trying several remedies to heal it without success, I was advised to go to a specialist. About that time a friend told me about your Remedy and I decided to try it first. I sent for six bottles of your Remedy and four packages of your Wash and began to take the Tonic and bathe the sore with the Wash and I think it was healed up in about two weeks. I continued to take the medicine and to use the Wash for Catarrh and think the Catarrh is about well, though I am still using the Wash. If I am ever bothered with a sore or anything of that kind again I will give your Remedy another trial. Thanking you very much for what your Remedy has done for me, I am your friend,

G. R. HENRY.

Chillicothe, Tex., Nov. 3, 1906.

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One of the most interesting inventions displayed in Charlotte in years is the Burlingame Telegraphing Typewriter.—Charlotte Observer.

An invention which makes it possible for a child to send a telegram by merely striking the keys of a typewriter is being exhibited to-day in Stone & Barringer's show window.—Charlotte Chronicle.

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