

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY NORTH CAROLINA DAILY.

APPEAL TO CONGRESS

THE PRESIDENT ASKS IT NOT TO ADJOURN FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING

To Prevent the Sacrifice of the People's Interest and the Public Funds.

ANOTHER SPECIAL MESSAGE

Mr. Cleveland Says That There Must Be a Complete Change of Our Financial Scheme--All His Efforts to Protect the Gold Reserve Have Failed and the Continued Withdrawals Bring Us Face to Face With the Necessity of a Further Issue of Bonds--American Credit Must Be Maintained Before All the World.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—President Cleveland sent the following special message to Congress late this afternoon:

To the Congress: In my last annual message the evils of our present financial system were plainly pointed out and the causes and means of the depletion of government gold were explained. It was therein stated that after all the efforts that had been made by the executive branch of the government to protect our gold reserve by the issuance of bonds amounting to more than \$162,000,000, such reserve then amounted to but little more than \$79,000,000, that about \$16,000,000 had been withdrawn from such reserve during the month next previous to the date of that message and that quite large withdrawals for shipment in the immediate future were predicted.

The contingency then feared has reached us and the withdrawals of gold since the communication referred to, and others that appear inevitable, threaten such a depletion in our government gold reserve as brings us face to face with the necessity of further action for its protection. This condition is intensified by the prevalence in certain quarters of sudden and unusual apprehension and timidity in business circles. We are in the midst of another season of perplexity caused by our dangerous and fatuous financial operations. These may be expected to recur with certainty as long as there is no amendment in our financial system. If in this particular instance our predicament is at all influenced by a decent insistence upon the position we should occupy in our relation to certain questions concerning our foreign policy, this furnishes a signal and impressive warning that even the patriotic sentiment of our people is not an adequate substitute for a sound financial policy.

Of course there can be no doubts in any thoughtful mind as to the complete solvency of our nation nor can there be any just apprehension that the American people will be satisfied with less than an honest payment of our public obligations in the recognition of money of the world. We should not overlook the fact, however, that averted public loss and the sacrifice of our people's interest.

The real and sensible cure for our recurring troubles can only be affected by a complete change in our financial scheme. Pending that, the executive branch of the government will not relax its efforts nor abandon its determination to use every means within its reach to maintain before the world American credit, nor will there be any hesitation in accepting its confidence in the resources of our country and the constant patriotism of our people.

In view, however, of the peculiar situation now confronting us, I have ventured to herein express the earnest hope that the Congress, in default of the inauguration of a better system of finance, will not take recess from its labors before it has by legislative enactment or declaration done something, not only to remind those apprehensive among our people that the resources of this government and a scrupulous regard for honest dealing affords a sure guarantee of unquestioned safety and soundness, but to reassure the world that, with these factors and the patriotism of our citizens, the ability and determination of our nation to meet in any circumstances every obligation it incurs do not admit of question.

I ask at the hands of the Congress such prompt aid as it alone has the power to give to prevent, in a time of fear and apprehension, any sacrifice of the people's interest and the public funds, or the impairment of our public credit, in an effort by executive action to relieve the dangers of the present emergency.

(Signed) GROVER CLEVELAND, Executive Mansion.

COMPLETE CHANGE OF PLANS.

Congress Will Begin at Once the Real Work of the Session.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The President's anti-recess message to-day took both Houses of Congress by surprise. It produced a number of conferences to-night, the result of which will probably be a complete change of plans for a holiday recess and the inauguration of the real work of the session two or three weeks in advance of the time

when it would have begun but for the message.

In the Senate an effort will be made to-morrow to secure the reconsideration of the adjournment resolution and the House will proceed to business as if no adjournment resolution had been adopted. This speaker will appoint his committees and it appears most probable that if the Senate fails to reconsider the adjournment resolution and send it to the House that body will decline to accept the Senate amendments, and thus leave the whole question suspended in the air between the two bodies for the time being.

This is the general result of a conference among some of the leading Republican Senators held with Speaker Reed to-night. It was at first thought that it would be preferable to have the resolution so amended and returned to the House for its action, but the second thought was opposed to this plan of action for the double reason that it was considered desirable as a party move to put the Democratic Senators on record with regard to the President's recommendations and also because it was considered best not to depend entirely upon the House. There is some doubt as to how the silver Republicans may act on the question of reconsideration, but if they co-operate with their anti-silver colleagues, it is believed such a motion will carry.

The disposition among the leading Democrats is to-night opposed to reconsideration. But the Republicans think it doubtful whether they will adhere to their position to-morrow. When the adjournment resolution was amended and passed to-day, Senator Chandler then moved to reconsider and his motion was laid on the table. The Democrats generally contend that this action finally disposed of it, but the Republicans hold that a motion to reconsider the vote, by which the resolution was laid on the table, would at least be in order. If the Republicans fail to carry their point, they will let the resolution go to the House in confidence that that body will refuse to accept the Senate amendments and that the adjournment movement will thus be checked.

The House conference took place at Speaker Reed's hotel and was participated in by Messrs. Dingley, Cannon, and other leaders. The crucial question which was under consideration four hours was whether the House should listen to the President's appeal and remain in session to devote its energies to financial legislation. It was finally decided that the House would continue its sittings. To further this plan Speaker Reed, it was said, will announce the committees to-morrow in order that they may organize and that the Ways and Means, if necessary, pass upon whatever schemes may be offered for the relief of the treasury.

ANOTHER MINE DISASTER.

Thirty Men Entombed by an Explosion of Fire Damp.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 20.—About thirty men were entombed in one of the coal mines of the Dayton Coal Mine this morning at 7 o'clock by an explosion of fire damp. There is not the slightest hope that one of the thirty men is alive.

Rescuing parties have been working all day like grim death trying to reach them, but it is probable they will be several days forcing an opening through the wall of the fallen roofing which must be made safe as they proceed. The foul air quickly exhausts the workers who are relieved by fresh hands. The work will continue day and night till the bodies are recovered.

At the mouths, hundreds of women and children have gathered and the picture of their grief and despair is heart rending. Mothers are wringing their hands, weeping daughters and little children, sweet-hearts and gray-headed grand parents, all in the greatest distress for they have been told that there is no hope, is a spectacle from which one turns sick at heart. As the mine is ventilated by air shafts or passages, the eaving-in of the wall in the entry cut off the draught and death is certain to those within.

TURKISH SOLDIERS MURDERED.

The Armenians in Zeitoun Massacre Their Captives.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 20.—via Sofia Bulgaria, 10.—An official despatch from Zeitoun says that the Armenians there, on Sunday last, massacred all the Turkish soldiers imprisoned in the town. This probably refers to the four hundred Turkish troops who were captured by the Zeitounis when the uprising first occurred, although it has been announced that all the soldiers, except nine, who were dead, had been released.

WILL DESTROY ZEITOUN.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—A despatch from Constantinople says the Porte has ordered Mustapha Remzi Pasha to attack to-day with 10,000 troops and two batteries the city of Zeitoun and to bombard and destroy it and to massacre the 12,000 Armenians in the city.

THE STREET CAR STRIKE.

Everything Quiet and the Situation Practically Unchanged.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 20.—The trolley strike situation is practically unchanged and everything is quiet. A few more cars are running, but very few. All the cars running to-day were guarded by policemen and carried very few passengers. The entire police force, augmented by hundreds of extra men, was on duty. The strike leaders have telegraphed to Eugene V. Debs, President of the American Railway Union, and John McBride, President of the American Federation of Labor, requesting them to come to this city immediately.

THE DEAD RECOVERED

FORTY-THREE LIFELESS BODIES TAKEN OUT OF CUMNOCK MINES.

FOUR OTHERS ARE MISSING

And Two of the Injured Men Will Very Probably Die.

COMPLETE LIST OF THE DEAD

The Coroner Will Hold an Inquest Over the Bodies--This is the Third Accident of the Same Kind in These Mines, a Total of 63 Men Having Been Killed by Similar Explosions--Heartrending Scenes as the Mangled Corpses Were Brought From the Mine--Plans of the Cumcock and Old Egypt Mines.

CUMNOCK, Chatham County, N. C., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—This morning, just after the dawn, twenty-five stark, blackened bodies were drawn up from the depths of the deep, dark mine that was their tomb. Blackened with a deep coating of sooty coal-dust, sometimes defaced with cruel mutilation, even faces and limbs burned and charred by the coal-gas that brought death in its flame.

Side by side in the engine-room they were laid, covered with strips of white cloth, naive and foreign, black and white, in a demerger of death. For the coal had blown its ebon dust so deep that in many cases the difference between the whites and blacks could not be told.

It was a ghastly show. And when the people sought for their loved ones in the still array—how pitiful it was!

the mine when the explosion came, and of these twenty-four escaped.

WHERE THEY WERE KILLED.

In Slope No. 1, where the largest number of men were at work, not one lives to tell how the death came.

In Slope No. 2, two miners were killed.

In Slope No. 3, farthest removed from the spot where the explosion is supposed to have originated, nearly all the men were rescued.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

The work of rescue did not begin at the first opportunity. The crowd that gathered at the mine seemed to be almost paralyzed by fear.

Superintendent Cant pleaded, and Mine Foreman Nutall told them they were cowards.

At last a little band had the courage to go down into the mine, rescue the living and dig out the bodies of the dead. Mr. J. F. Nutall led the party the first man to go into the mine.

The party was composed of: G. F. Cant, superintendent; E. H. Davis, foreman; Fred Nutall, in charge of party (all three from Pennsylvania); James Russell, Archie Hart, Burg Hart, Lonnie Tyson, Zim Wood and Giles Woodard, all volunteers; and the following native North Carolina miners: Barney Lynch, Dons White, Gorrie Fields, N. G. Rush, Harry Rodgers and Tom Shapkle.

They had fresh air pumped into the mine, and then began their search.

Twenty-five men were rescued from Slopes No. 2 and No. 3.

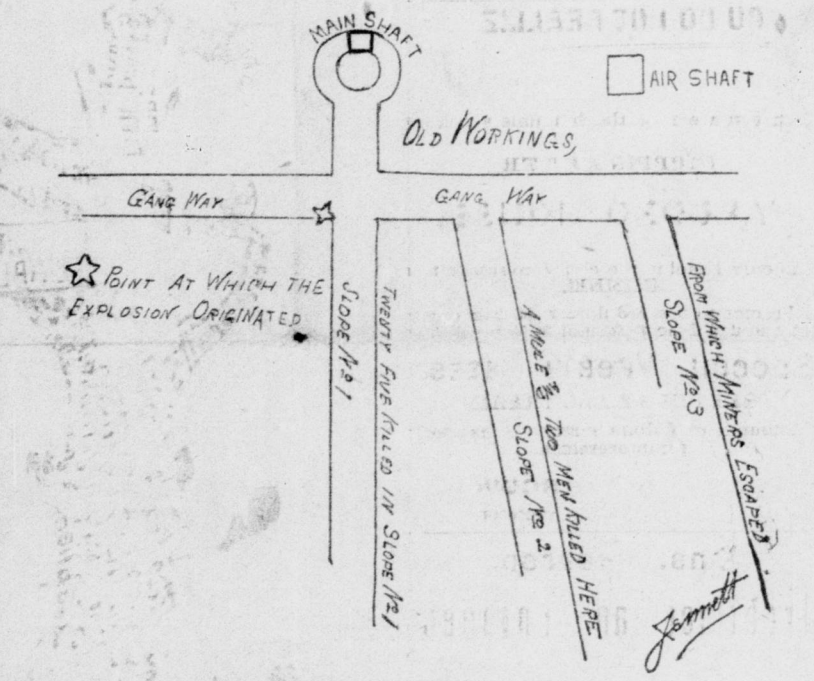
When they entered Slope No. 1, the bodies of the dead were found lying on every hand.

Of them all, not a man was alive.

The bodies were carried to the foot of the shaft as they were discovered.

None were brought to the surface until this morning.

Besides the twenty-five bodies lying in the engine room when I was there this morning, eight bodies lay at the bottom of the shaft. And I was told that two others had just been discovered,



MAP OF THE CUMNOCK MINES.

How the sad-eyed ones whom death had robbed looked into each face and sought the features of their own!

And when all that was left of him was found, they laid him on a pathetic little white-cloth stretcher and bore him home for burial.

The horror of it all had awed the crowd that came with sympathy and help. The tragedy fell like a pall over Cumcock and the country round about, for few they were who had not known a friend in the mine.

THE HAIR-BREADTH ESCAPES.

The men who crawled out of the black horror and were lifted to the light, tell thrilling tales of narrow escape.

Ambrose Mills, track foreman of the mines, was laying track at the time the accident occurred. He heard the noise of the explosion and rushed toward the shaft. All the lights went out, and he could not see his hand before him. He fell on his knees and crawled out to the foot of the shaft, feeling his way with his hands on the track irons. Before he reached the shaft he fell over a prostrate form, and a man said, "For the Lord's sake, don't leave me here to die, boys!" It was Jack Johnson. German Heurtz also stumbled over Johnson on his way to the shaft. Johnson was badly burned by the coal-gas, but escaped.

One of the men, J. F. Budd, in Slope No. 2, where two men were killed, said he heard the first concussion, the jarring sound that went all through the mines, and knew at once that an explosion had occurred. He and his partner groped toward the shaft, feeling their way along the walls. When they reached the gang-way they ran against many others, all struggling in the intense darkness to reach the shaft that meant life to them. They were almost stifled by the gas, and before they reached air the deadly "after-damp" that follows these explosions began to settle on them, and with its oppressive influence almost threw them into a stupor.

There are others who will bear for life the marks of their escape "by the skin of their teeth." Some of them have blackened faces, where the deadly coal-gas burned them, and some wear charred fingers and scorched limbs.

But they are alive, and they thank the Lord for that.

Sixty-six persons were at work in

ered, half buried in the coal.

That left several bodies, five or six, yet to be found.

Reports differ slightly as to the number of men in the mine at the time the explosion occurred, and no man knows just how many are yet to be found.

THE PLAN OF THE MINE.

"Will you kindly draw for me a rough sketch of the plan of the mine, a kind of outline map?" I asked Superintendent Cant.

He drew the map of the mine (as it was when the accident occurred) that appears above.

Though a simple outline, it gives a very clear idea of the situation. The star at the junction of the gang-way and slope No. 1, shows where, according to the best information up to this time) the explosion originated.

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?

"Will you give the News and Observer a statement of how this sad accident occurred?" I asked Superintendent Cant.

"A thorough and critical examination must be made before the cause can be positively determined," he answered.

"The fire-doss and the mine foreman both made their usual rounds that morning before the miners went to work. And they reported everything perfectly safe and in good working order. It was at 7:45 that the mine-foreman and fire-boss reported everything satisfactory and secure.

"Twenty minutes later the explosion occurred.

"There are so many things bearing on the matter that one cannot tell exactly what caused the accident, until the whole matter has been thoroughly examined.

"All the air shafts and apparatus have been kept in perfect order. The company has spent a great deal of money in order to make the mine safe and secure. This has always been one of the best ventilated mines in the country."

[CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.]

A MEMORABLE DAY

A DAY OF EXCITEMENT AND OF MANY SURPRISES IN WASHINGTON.

EVENTS MOVED WITH RAPIDITY

The Venezuelan Commission Bill Passed by the Senate--A Special Message From the President--Two Meetings of the Cabinet to Discuss the Financial Situation--The Message Not Favorably Received by the Senate--Commission Gossip

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—This has been a day of excitement and surprises in Washington. Events moved with rapidity and when the sun went down public men in all branches of the service were nervous and worn out from the tension. Reports came of panic in securities throughout the country and here in Washington affairs moved at the rapid pace of a kaleidoscope.

The House Venezuelan commission bill was amended in material respects by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then by a sudden change in sentiment in the Senate was passed unanimously just as it came from the House, then an adjournment resolution from to-morrow over the holidays was passed by the Senate only to be followed by an energetic message from the President strongly advising prompt action for the reform of our currency system and the maintenance of public credit.

At the other end of the avenue the President and his cabinet received prompt advice of the course of events here and on the public exchanges. The cabinet held two sessions, something without precedent in recent years. Secretary Herbert, who returned from New York this afternoon, attended the second meeting for a brief time. All of the remaining members of the cabinet were present except Secretary Lamont and Smith, who are out of town. The financial situation was the principal topic of consideration and the result of the meeting was revealed in the message sent to the Senate late in the afternoon, the body being kept in session by request from the White House for its reception.

The message was not favorably received in the Senate. The summary adjournment upon the motion of Senator Cockrell, one of the Democratic leaders, immediately after the conclusion of the reading of the message, was taken on the Republican side as a disposition not to consider the message seriously.

Mr. Cockrell declined to define his motion or to discuss the question of the propriety of the suggestion. Senator Gorman replying to a question, said that he did not want to criticize the President. Senator Jones, of Arkansas, when interviewed, simply remarked that he thought the Senate would sit to-morrow. Senator Allison thought there would be a recess notwithstanding the message as the Senate had already a resolution to the effect before the message was received. Senator Hawley said it appeared to him as if the President was in a bull run panic, and Senator Teller and Culbourn, when seen by a reporter agreed that it looked as if the President was trying to offset the effect of his Venezuelan message and that it was beginning to look as if the President had concluded from the favorable manner in which the Venezuelan message had been received that Congress would follow any suggestion that he might make.

Although Secretary Herbert returned to Washington from New York this afternoon he has yet taken no action respecting the orders to the North Atlantic squadron, and so it will not sail to-morrow as intended, for the West Indies. The Secretary will communicate his intentions to Admiral Bunce when he comes to Washington for the purpose Sunday, but impression prevails that the fleet will not leave American waters immediately and that the itinerary heretofore arranged will be modified materially before its departure.

Further inquiry into the subject makes it appear that if the commission to be appointed to ascertain the facts respecting the Venezuelan boundary finds it necessary to visit the country and to personally locate the line, the work will consume much more time than is generally believed. Outside of the voyage to Venezuela, which would consume not less than a month to and fro, the journey through the wild interior of the country would be very difficult. With a small flying force of eight lightly-equipped colonial police, the journey to the Uruguay outpost where the collision occurred and which marks one end of the line claimed by Great Britain, could not be made in less than twenty-three days; so that if the commission is to make a proper examination of the country, the task, including the sea voyage, will probably occupy almost six months.

Many names have been suggested for the membership on the commission, but to-day's action in passing the House bill unamended apparently limits several of those names, including that of Justice Harlan, of the Supreme Court. One name favorably mentioned is that of Mr. Partridge, of Vermont, former United States minister to Venezuela.

THE DAY IN THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The session of the House to-day was purely a perfunctory affair. The Speaker was ready to announce the committees and House was ready to adjourn for the holiday recess, but the fact that the Senate had not yet acted on the bill for the appointment of the Venezuelan commission forced the House, after waiting an hour and a half, for the Senate to act, to adjourn until to-morrow. The only business transacted was the passage of a bill for changing the terms of United States courts in Iowa and the presentation of a notice of contest against Representative Jones, of Virginia, on the ground of fraud.

THE SEABOARD WITHDRAWS.

Notice Served on the Southern States Freight Association.

MONROE, N. C., Dec. 20.—(Special.) The sixty days' notice required for withdrawal from the Southern States Freight Association was served upon that organization to-day by the Seaboard Air Line in a letter to Commissioner Haines stating plainly the reasons for withdrawing.

FITZSIMMONS-MAHER FIGHT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Joe Vendig to-day deposited with R. K. Fox a check for \$1,000, which he had received from Dan Stuart as a guarantee that Bob Fitzsimmons would meet Peter Maher at El Paso, Texas, February 14.

Quinn, manager for Maher, sends word that he will arrive in the city next Thursday morning with \$1,000 to post for Maher.

IT WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A Day That Will Be Notable in Congressional History.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The United States Senate, by unanimous vote and without the formality of a roll call, to-day passed the bill already adopted

by the House of Representatives empowering the President to appoint a commission to determine the Venezuela-British Guiana boundary.

This action was the culmination of a debate adding a memorable page to Congressional history. It was a day of notable speeches by notable men. The prospect of war between the United States and Great Britain was the prevailing theme and notwithstanding the gravity of such a subject, it was discussed with a directness of statement which found expression in lofty patriotic sentiments, casting appeals for preparation and defense, in graphic portraits of the heroes of war and at times in defiant warnings to the people across the water.

By a singular coincidence the session which was to be marked by such vigorous debate and action was opened by an invocation of classic beauty from the blind chaplain of the Senate, breathing the spirit of good will between the two prominent English-speaking nations. This was speedily followed by the adoption of Mr. Allen's somewhat ironical resolution, based on the possibilities of war, and calling on the Finance committee to investigate the needs of the unlimited coinage of silver.

This served merely as a prelude to the main debate on the Venezuelan question. It was brought forward by Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, who, as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, offered the House resolution in amended form—specifying three as the number of the commission and asking their nominations subject to the confirmation of the Senate. On this amended resolution the debate of the day proceeded. At all time during the four hours of discussion the galleries were besieged by an eager crowd, every available seat being occupied and long lines of people extending through the corridors to the various entrances. The patriotic impulses of the crowd found frequent expression in applause which the presiding officer sought vainly to suppress, threatening at times to clear the galleries.

The most notable utterances of the day were those of Senators Sherman, Teller, Mills, Lodge, Platt, Turpie, Chandler, White, Caffrey, Call and Stewart, representing the three shades of political sentiment, and yet in the main uniform in urging the support of the President, vigorous assertion of the Monroe doctrine, and, if need be, any action essential to maintain the national dignity. Mr. Lodge and Mr. Teller gave special warning against the mistaken belief in England that the American people were never more earnest since the outbreak of the revolution. There were strong expressions, also, against the panic in American stocks and securities which the London commercial houses were seeking to bring about. Throughout the debate there was an undercurrent of feeling that while the country would not shrink from war, if it must come, yet that such a calamity was not imminent.

Shortly before 4 o'clock Mr. Morgan unexpectedly withdrew the amendments to the bill, leaving it in its original form. There was no demand for a roll-call, as the sentiment of the Senate was clearly a unit, and by a loud viva voce vote the bill was passed without a dissenting vote. This completed the legislative enactment measure, which, with the signature of the President, has the full force and effect of a law.

The passage of the bill was not, however, the only exciting event of the day, for at 4:30 o'clock the President's message urging the gravity of the financial situation and appealing to Congress not to adjourn until relief was afforded, was presented to the Senate. Its reading was followed with close attention, but the Senators, absorbed with the stirring events of the debate, were ready to adjourn without immediate consideration of the message.

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