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## Leads all North Carolina Daily Papers in Both News and Circulation

### HANDS OFF OUR SHIPS, SAYS SECRETARY HAY.

#### A Formal Declaration of War Only Can Turn Them Back.

### SHELLING THE FORTRESS

#### An Ancient Fortification Guarding Puerto Cabello Knocked to Pieces by British and German Bombs—Avenge Insult to British Flag.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—Minister Bowen has confirmed the press reports to the effect that the guns of the allied fleets, which bombarded Puerto Cabello Saturday, were directed entirely at the fortifications and not at the town.

Regrettable as it was, this statement relieves the affair of the first suspicion that it constituted a violation of international law, in the fact that twenty-four hours' notice was not served of the bombardment. The requirement as to notice applies to unfortified or fortified towns where the fire must be directed upon the inhabitants, and this was not the case at Puerto Cabello, so that while the officials here regret that the firing took place they have as yet no cause to protest.

But it is now probable that the United States will break its attitude of inactivity in the event that an attempt is made to enforce the "peaceful blockade" toward an American ship. When the allies were considering ways and means of bringing Venezuela to terms and a blockade of this character had been decided upon, the German government informed the United States that when the blockade was established it would turn back all shipping, though no effort would be made to seize the ships.

The United States government made no response to this statement at the time last year, not feeling called upon to do so before the presentation of an actual case. But now that the blockade is sought to be established, Secretary Hay has informed the German government that American ships should not be interfered with in their trading, except the inhibition applies to all shipping; and, further, the note intimates a disapproval of any stoppage at all.

It is within the legal right of the allies to close these ports, but probably this can be accomplished without protest on our part only after a formal declaration of war. The hope is growing here that such a declaration can, after all, be avoided owing to the energy with which Mr. Bowen has acted. It has developed that the reason for the delay in the consideration of President Castro's proposal to arbitrate the dispute with Great Britain and Germany was the absence from London of Lord Lansdowne, the British Minister for Foreign Affairs. It appears that this proposition had more than a perfunctory endorsement by the United States government. Mr. Bowen having asked permission to endeavor to settle the matter by arbitration, Secretary Hay not only promptly accorded the permission, but went to the length of himself dispatching the proposal, which, up to that point, had been rather vague and informal to the British and German governments.

Secretary Hay was in conference at the White House for a short time with the President today regarding Venezuelan affairs. Senator Cullom and Representative Hitt, the heads of the two committees on affairs of Congress, also saw the President, but it was stated that little attention was given to Venezuela.

Among Senators and Representatives who have discussed the Venezuelan matter with President Roosevelt, the situation is regarded as serious, but it is not generally believed to be likely that the United States will become involved in the controversy.

### WITH EYES ON UNCLE SAM.

#### The Venezuelan Officials Seem at the End of Their Rope.

(By the Associated Press.)

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 15.—Inaction reigns in government circles here. The officials do not know what to do and are depending entirely upon the United States to assist them.

A movement is on foot here, headed by prominent doctors and lawyers, to request President Castro to resign and to ask Vice-President Ramon Ayala to assume the presidency and form a cabinet without party tendencies. It is also proposed to summon Congress to appoint a temporary president and arrange the questions in dispute in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

The Venezuelan government announces that Great Britain has re-opened the navigation of the Orinoco river. Two warships will patrol the mouths of the river and the river itself. This measure applies only to foreign ships. Vessels flying Venezuelan flag are excluded.

The government reports that the German cruiser Panther is going to Maracaibo to destroy the forts there.

Minister Bowen, at the request of the Dutch minister, Dr. van Leyden, who is

sick at Curacao, has taken charge of Dutch interests here.

The leading merchants at La Guaira arrived here last night, abandoning that port owing to fear that it will be shelled today.

The German cruiser Vineta is going to visit Margarita, an island in the Caribbean sea, belonging to Venezuela, thirty miles north of Cumana.

At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon several large explosions alarmed the city of Porto Cabello. On investigation it was found that British marines had blown up the subterranean prison-cells of Castle Libertador with dynamite. They also burned all the wooden buildings surrounding the castle and carried away everything that could be transported. The Venezuelan government warship Miranda escaped the vigilance of the German cruisers Falke and Panther, which were searching for her, and arrived at Maracaibo yesterday.

### THE FORT BOMBARDED.

#### The Shelling of Puerto Cabello Follows an Insult to the British Flag.

(By the Associated Press.)

Puerto Cabello, Dec. 14.—The British cruiser Charybdis and the German cruiser Vineta have bombarded the fortress here. They quickly silenced it. The Charybdis and the Vineta arrived here this morning. The captain of the English merchant steamer Topaz, which was seized by the mob last Wednesday, visited the English commodore on board the Topaz. The populace were greatly agitated and raised the cry, "To arms!" but no incident occurred. The commodore then sent a demand to the authorities for immediate satisfaction for having pulled down the British flag from the Topaz and advised the government that if satisfaction was not forthcoming in two hours, the fort and the custom house would be bombarded. The authorities, on the receipt of this demand, sent a message to President Castro asking for instructions. At 5 o'clock the Charybdis and Vineta opened fire on the fortress and the custom house. The fort replied, but was soon silenced. No damage was done to the town. The United States consul went on board the two cruisers and was informed by their commanders that they had come to this port in search of the Venezuelan warships.

The bombardment lasted for 45 minutes. The fortress is composed of Fort Solano and the Castle Libertador. After the firing ceased, the Charybdis sent marines to occupy the castle. The fortress was almost completely demolished. It is probable that only a few persons were injured by the shelling. The commander of Castle Libertador has been taken prisoner. The cruisers are still here.

### To be Used Against Venezuela.

(By the Associated Press.)

Berlin, Dec. 15.—Lieutenant Commander Turk, first officer of the German cruiser Gazelle, has taken command of the captured Venezuelan gunboat Restaurador, which is now flying the German flag. So soon as the Restaurador has completed her equipment at Port-of-Spain, Island of Trinidad, she will be utilized in the German operations against Venezuela.

### Comment Among Senators.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—The situation in Venezuela is causing considerable comment among Senators, and there are indications that a resolution of inquiry may be introduced at an early day. This proceeding would in all probability have been instituted today, but for the fact that assurances were received from the State Department that the Department's information is quite meagre. If the question comes up it probably will be dealt with in executive session.

### ECUADOR BEGINS TO GROWL.

(By the Associated Press.)

Guayaquil, Ecuador, December 15.—A patriotic demonstration took place here last night. A large number of people who had attended a meeting went to the Venezuelan and to all the other South American consulates shouting: "Long live Castro," "Long live Venezuela," and "Long live the South American Countries."

The participants in the demonstration adopted a resolution asking President Plaza to protest officially against the action of the allied powers.

### Italy Will Take a Hand

(By the Associated Press.)

Berlin, Dec. 15.—The Foreign Office informed the Associated Press today that Italy will participate in the blockade by agreement with the allies, and that a portion of the coast will be assigned to the Italian ships. The proceedings against Venezuela thus become in every respect tripartite.

### Berlin Thinks the Proposal too Late.

(By the Associated Press.)

Berlin, Dec. 1.—In official quarters here it is said that the Venezuelan vessels sunk off La Guaira were old and worthless revenue cutters and unfit to go to sea and that the other ships captured have been sent to a certain West Indian port to be refitted for use during the blockade. The destruction of the Venezuelan craft, it is added, was necessary in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Venezuelans as the German vessels had to leave La Guaira.

Venezuela's proposition through Minister Bowen to submit the questions in dispute to arbitration has now been received here. The Foreign Office says this will not delay Germany's and Great Britain's (Continued on Page Five.)

### SOUTH DAKOTA SUIT CUT IT, SAYS JETER

#### All Depositions in. No Day Yet Fixed for the Hearing.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—In the case of the State of South Dakota versus the State of North Carolina, which holds a place "original" docket of the United States Supreme Court, the statement was made today in that court that all the depositions had been taken and the court was asked to fix a day for hearing the case. The Chief Justice replied that the application would have consideration and said that in the meantime the testimony could be filed. The case involves the validity of a railroad bond which was guaranteed by North Carolina and which has been acquired by the school fund of South Dakota.

### LIVES GIVEN TO MOLOK OF GREED.

#### Little Girls Testify Before the Arbitrators—Indignation is Aroused.

(By the Associated Press.)

Seranton, Pa., Dec. 15.—The mine workers, after occupying nineteen days in presenting about 160 witnesses, closed their case before the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission, late this afternoon, excepting that they will call one important witness tomorrow morning. The afternoon session was one of the most important sittings the commission has yet held, because the question of whether the close relationship of the coal-carrying railroads with the mining companies shall figure in the commission's effort to adjust the controversy, came squarely before the arbitrators. The decision of the commission, if Chairman Gray's remarks can be so called, was briefly this: That the commission, in a general way, is averse to widening the scope of the investigation beyond the terms of the submissions of the miners and the operators; that in carrying on the investigation it assumes the coal companies can afford to pay fair wages, and that if a business cannot pay fair wages the employer ought to get out of it.

The mine workers denuded a great deal on the evidence they had to present to show that the coal-carrying railroads control the coal companies, and that the railroads charge exorbitant and discriminating freight rates, thus greatly decreasing the revenue of the mining properties. The miners wanted to present this evidence in documentary form, but as objection was made to it and sustained by the commission with the above rulings, the matter was not pressed.

Several little girls employed in silk mills were called to the witness stand during the day, and as a result Chairman Gray plainly gave his opinion of parents who send their children to work at a tender age. Annie Denks, aged 13 years, said she worked at night from 6:30 o'clock till 6:30 in the morning. She had to stand up all night during her work and received 55 cents a night. When the girl said she was employed at night, every member of the commission seemed shocked. Judge Gray appeared especially indignant. He asked her where her father worked, and she told him in the mines. The girl also told the number of persons in the family, and finally Judge Gray said he would like to see the father of these girls. "It may be a necessity to send them to the mills, but I don't think a father has a right to coin the fish and blood of his children into money. It's an outrage. I would like to see what instincts he has."

The chairman of the commission spoke with much feeling and his views apparently received the approval of the other commissioners.

Mr. Darrow, for the miners, said it was not altogether the fault of the parents, but the employers are to blame for not paying wages enough to permit a man to keep his children in school. Judge Gray replied: "That may be, but there are miners who receive enough money to enable them to keep their children out of the work-house."

Judge Gray inquired as to the law in Pennsylvania regarding child labor at night. One statute was found which partially covered the case and the chairman remarked that it seemed as though the statutes of Pennsylvania in this part of the State do not seem to bother anyone.

### SIX SERMONS BY VISITING MINISTERS.

#### Baleigh Pulpits Filled Sunday With Great Satisfaction to All.

The pulpit at the First Presbyterian church was ably filled at both services Sunday by Rev. Thomas R. English, an eloquent young divine of the Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va. Both sermons were delivered before large and appreciative congregations.

Rev. C. W. Duke, of Elizabeth City, preached at the First Baptist church Sunday morning and evening. At the evening service he took his text from the 9th verse of 6th chapter of Matthew: "Our Father, Which Art in Heaven." Both sermons delighted a large congregation.

### Runaway Boy Taken Home.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 15.—Mr. Benjamin Chatham, a bank cashier of Philadelphia, arrived on the early morning train today, and left on the noon train, carrying back home his 12-year-old son, little Benjamin, who ran away a week ago, and was touring the interesting South.

Sometimes the absent cashier's account book looks suspiciously like a figure screen.

### CUT IT, SAYS JETER

#### Pritchard Favors Reduced Southern Representation in Conventions.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—At the White House today, Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, declared himself in favor of the reduction of the representation of the South in Republican National conventions. To Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, and a group of newspaper men, Senator Pritchard said that he would support any properly directed effort made to reduce the representation of the Southern States in National conventions. "I believe," said he, "that that is the only fair method, and I am in favor of it. The representation of all States in Republican National conventions should be in accordance with the number of Republican votes cast in the several States."

Senator Quay expressed his gratification that Senator Pritchard had taken that stand, and remarked sentimentally: "I am with you."

Senator Pritchard explained that he did not favor cutting down the representation of the Southern States in Congress, as he did not think that could be done constitutionally.

### MRS. ULYSSES GRANT DEAD.

#### The Wife of General Grant, Once President, Passes Over the River.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, wife of President Grant, died at her residence in this city at 11:17 o'clock Sunday night. Death was due to heart failure. Mrs. Grant having suffered for some years from valvular disease of the heart, which was aggravated by a severe attack of bronchitis. Her age prevented her rallying from the attacks. Her daughter, Nellie Grant Sartoris, was the only one of her children with her at the time of death.

There were also present at the bedside when the end came Miss Rosemary Sartoris, a grand-daughter; Dr. Bishop, one of the attending physicians, and the two trained nurses. Death came peacefully, the sufferer retaining almost complete consciousness practically to the end. The remains of Mrs. Grant will be deposited in the tomb at Riverside Park, New York, where those of her husband now repose.

Mrs. Grant, whose maiden name was Julia Dent, was born in St. Louis in 1826, and was the daughter of Frederick and Ellen Dent, when she was married to the general in 1848. During the Civil War Mrs. Grant was with the general much of the time and remained as near as possible to him when he was campaigning. She saw her husband twice inaugurated as President and accompanied him on his journey around the world. As mistress of the White House she gave liberally to all the charitable institutions of the city. Four children were born to General and Mrs. Grant, three sons and one daughter, all of them living.

She was of domestic temperament and devoted most of her time to her home and children. She was 76 years of age at the time of her death.

### THE SHERIFF HAS CREASMAN.

#### Accused of Intimacy With Young Daughter he is to be Tried.

(Special to the News and Observer.)

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 15.—Sheriff Henry Reid, of Asheville, N. C., left this morning for that place with Lafayette Creasman, whom he had arrested at Decatur, Ill. Creasman is the school teacher whose wife has preferred against him the charge of incest with his 13-year-old daughter.

Creasman was arrested after a reward of \$200 had been offered by the Governor of North Carolina. Despite the report that he had written to his wife saying he was guilty, but had gotten religion and being forgiven by the Lord, was ready for trial, he denied the charge here and wept bitterly.

Creasman is about 35 years of age and has a wife and 6 children Nov. 5, when his wife threatened him with prosecution on the alleged discovery of his crime. His residence in Illinois was discovered from a letter written to his wife, in which he expressed a desire to return home.

### SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR.

#### Roosevelt Recommends Aid for Heirs of the Italians Killed at Erwin.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—The President, today, transmitted to the Senate a report from the Secretary of State in regard to the killing by a mob on July 11, 1901, of two Italians, at Erwin, Miss. The President recommends that, "as an act of grace and without reference to the question of the liability of the United States, Congress make suitable provision for the heirs of the Italian subjects killed and for the survivor who was injured, the proceeds to be distributed by the Italian government in such manner as it may deem proper."

### AMOS OWENS CHERRY TREE SWINDLE

#### Defendants Must Cash Up or go to Jail Unless Pritchard Gets Time.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 15.—Unless the persons interested in the once famous Amos Owens Cherry Tree swindle cash up with the defrauded letter writers this week, it is probable they will go to jail. The present term of court was named

as the limit for the defendants to cash up.

Thus far five thousand dollars have been paid to Col. H. C. Cowles who was named by the court to receive it, but there are seven thousand five hundred dollars yet to be paid and it is said the defendants are not able to pay this sum. Unless Judge Boyd relents, they are apt to spend Christmas in jail.

Senator Pritchard is expected here this week to plead for further time for his clients.

### ROUNDBOUSE FALLS IN RUIN.

#### Sore of Workmen Buried in Debris—No One Killed.

(By the Associated Press.)

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 15.—The roof and supports of the roundhouse in the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's West Philadelphia yards today collapsed, burying more than a score of workmen and thirty-ones locomotives. A fire broke out in the ruins, but the flames were quickly extinguished. Several of the injured sustained broken limbs, but none was seriously hurt.

The roof of the structure which was erected many years ago, was of wood, covered with slate, supported by iron uprights. It is believed the weight of snow and ice which had lain on the roof since Saturday weakened the building. Seventeen locomotives were badly damaged.

### TWO ARE INDICTED

#### Bills Against Buncombe Registrars. Holton's Attitude in the Matter.

(Special to the News and Observer.)

Asheville, N. C., Dec. 15.—Notwithstanding District Attorney Holton's positive statement to the contrary, bills were found at the recent term of the Federal Court here against the registrars in Buncombe county, C. B. Bumgardner and R. J. Farrar, both of Asheville. The bills were drawn for violation of section 5310 of the Revised Statutes, but no processes for arrest have yet been issued. There are two indictments against Bumgardner and one against Farrar. The feature in this matter is the attitude of District Attorney Holton. After court had met here and after the Charlotte court had indicted registrars in other counties, Mr. Holton was asked if any similar indictments would be found in this county. He disclaimed any knowledge that any were proposed. When these cases came before the grand jury Mr. Holton was present and took an active part in the examination of witnesses, saying he had a right to do so.

The Spaker appointed Messrs. Cannon, Barney and Livingston as conferees on the part of the House.

### FOUR MILLIONS FOR A UNION STATION

#### House Passes Bill for One in Washington.

### THE MILITIA MEASURE

#### Mr. Pettus Attacks Section 24 Fearing Infringement upon the Rights of the States—The Omnibus Statehood Bill is Discussed.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The House, today, passed the Senate bill for a union railroad station for this city to cost \$4,000,000. The station is to be situated north of the present site of the Baltimore and Ohio depot, at Delaware and Massachusetts avenues, and in front of it is to be a large plaza park. The Pennsylvania Railroad, by the terms of the bill, is to remove its tracks from the Mall and reach the site of the proposed station through a tunnel to run between the capitol and library buildings. The government is to pay the Pennsylvania Railroad \$1,500,000 and the Baltimore and Ohio \$500,000 in addition to providing for the plaza park. The House also passed an urgent deficiency bill which carried, among the other items an appropriation of \$500,000 for eradicating the foot and mouth disease in New England.

The Senate amendments to the Strike Commission bill were disagreed to and the bill sent to conference.

The Spaker appointed Messrs. Cannon, Barney and Livingston as conferees on the part of the House.

At 5:30 the House adjourned.

### In the Upper House.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Senate today discussed the bill to promote the efficiency of the militia and also the Omnibus Statehood bill. After agreeing to the concurrent resolution of the House for an adjournment from December 20 to January 5, Mr. Proctor called up the Militia bill. An amendment by Mr. Pettus, striking from the bill section 24, having particular reference to the reserve force of trained men, provoked some discussion, Mr. Pettus raising the point that the section, if enacted into law, would be an infringement of the constitutional authority of the States, and put the control of the militia of the several States into the hands of the general government. The bill was laid aside for the Omnibus Statehood bill, Senator Dillingham, of Vermont, who is opposed to the bill, occupying the time of the Senate for the remainder of the day in rehearsing the testimony taken by the sub-committee of the Committee on Territories during its tour of investigation in Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma. After a brief executive session, the Senate adjourned.

Minority Report on Statehood Bill.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Senator Bate today presented in the Senate minority report from the Committee on Territories favoring the immediate passing by the Senate of the Omnibus Statehood bill without amendments as it came from the House. The report argues for the admission of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, and opposes the uniting of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory into one State. It shows minutely the condition of each of the three territories as to population, wealth and general features of the territories, and says that these are such as to call for immediate Statehood.

It criticizes the majority report and shows that both the Republican and Democratic parties in their last national conventions adopted with perfect unanimity a plank in their respective platforms recommending each of these territories by name for statehood. Such expression should, the report contends, be respected by both parties.

The report says, among other things: "It never was intended that Congress should bar by party objection admission when population, wealth and institutions were the same as in the case of other States."

With reference to the qualifications of the population of the territories, the report contends that "it ought to suffice that 95 per cent are white in Oklahoma, and the 90,000 white population in Arizona and the 122,000 white population in New Mexico, are quite sufficient to leave all the foreign born in each of those territories."

Liberal quotation is made from the report of the majority upon the Statehood bill. One of the portions quoted is that referring to a statement made by a witness that some of the white people in the territories are "like the riff raff who follow the construction of railroads." Commenting upon this statement, the minority say:

"The riff raff who follow the railroads have been the sturdy Irishman, whose pick and shovel and spade and labor have built the 100,000 miles of American railroad. Why that 'riff raff' should not be good citizens in New Mexico as they are in every other State and territory, the report does not advise the Senate."

The report is signed by Senators Bate, Hittfield, Bailey and Patterson, constituting the Democratic membership of the Committee on Territories.

### THE BANKS FORM A FIFTY MILLION DOLLAR POOL.

#### Morgan and Others Start a Scheme to Lend in the Money Market.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 15.—A number of banks of this city and J. P. Morgan & Company have formed a pool of \$50,000,000 to lend in the money market in the event of actual emergency.

The pool was organized by George F. Baker, president of the First National Bank. That bank, J. P. Morgan & Co., the National City Bank, the Chase National Bank, the National Bank of Commerce, the Hanover National Bank, the Fourth National Bank, and the Western National Bank have pledged themselves for \$5,000,000 each. The Corn Exchange Bank agrees to subscribe \$2,500,000, and the Chemical National and the Bank of New York, \$1,000,000. This measure is really a protective one and it is not apprehended that any of the money will be actually needed. It will be put out, however, as the occasion arises.

The following will manage the pool money: J. Pierpont Morgan, George F. Baker, president of the First National Bank, and James S. Stillman, president of the National City Bank.

Following the precedent established by the late F. D. Tappan, who managed such pools in similar cases, the money will be put out "at the market" in unlimited amount. In this way the interest rate will be kept down to the legal rate, or lower, if it is considered necessary.

### Richmond Pearson Appointed.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—The President sent the following nominations to the Senate: State—Lloyd C. Griscom, Pennsylvania, Minister to Japan; Richmond Pearson, North Carolina, Minister to Persia.

Postmaster—North Carolina: Claudius D. Holland, Gastonia.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Richmond Pearson having, by cable, accepted the post of Minister to Persia, W. H. Bishop has been appointed to succeed him as consul general at Genoa, Italy. Mr. Bishop is a well known man of letters, of considerable reputation as a novelist, and is professor of modern languages at Yale University.

### Three Lives Lost in Fire.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Dec. 15.—Three lives were lost in a tenement fire in Fifth avenue, near 166th street. The dead: MRS. MARY BOND, 32 years old, RAYMOND BOND, 7 years old, ROSE BOND, 5 years old. Edward Bond, 35 years old, was severely burned about the hands and face, while trying to save his family, and Helen, 2 years old, also was severely burned about the hands and face.