

GERMAN WARSHIPS FIRE ON A FORT

An Attack on Fort San Carlos at the Entrance of Lake Maracaibo, Meets a Spirited Reply

Caracas, Jan. 19.—Once more has the German navy begun open hostilities against the Venezuelans, and this time, officials here say, to its sorrow. Apparently without provocation the German gunboat Panther opened fire yesterday on Fort San Carlos, which commands the entrance to the inner bay, on which Maracaibo lies, 22 miles away. Much to the surprise of Captain Eckerman and everybody aboard the gunboat the fort replied vigorously. Soon afterward two explosions were heard on the Panther, and these seemed to disable her, for she slowly and seemingly with difficulty withdrew.

It is reported that two of the men on the Panther were killed. That this action will have a disastrous influence on the negotiations for peace is admitted generally here, the more so as it is said that the attack on the fort was premeditated a week ago. In proof of this a leading official of the Caracas government showed your correspondent a letter sent to President Castro from Curacao under date of January 11, informing him that about a week later German vessels would open fire on Fort San Carlos. Orders to do this, the letter said, had been received from Berlin, with instructions to make the attack before the arrival of United States Minister Bowen in Washington.

The first news of the bombardment was received here at noon today from the governor of Maracaibo. He stated that from Fort San Carlos about noon Saturday a gunboat flying the German flag was seen steaming along the coast. It turned into the channel which the fort guards and then, without any signal of warning, when in range of the fort opened fire with all its batteries.

But General Bello, in command of the fort, was in readiness for the enemy. He had at least two modern guns and he at once returned the fire. For some time the guns of the Panther did not respond and it was noticed with joy by those in the fort that, although she was doing her best to force the entrance to the channel, it was so narrow and shallow that she could not be handled to the best advantage. But she was soon in a position where her guns could be used again, and again they spoke to the fort, whose four guns gave answer in kind. Then an explosion was heard on the Panther and from the fort it seemed that her men were in confusion for a few moments. But all was discipline after that and the bombardment was renewed.

For an hour the marksmanship of the Germans was so poor that the fort suffered little damage. This cheered the men in the fort, and again and again they shouted defiance at the crew of the gunboat.

Then another explosion on the Panther was heard and Venezuelans say she seemed to be crippled badly. She withdrew slowly the guns of the fort firing on her until she was out of range. No response came from her, and once out of the entrance to the mined bay she steamed off along the coast.

These official advices were backed by private dispatches which were received by merchants here and which said that Fort San Carlos suffered little damage, while two men on the Panther reported killed and several wounded.

At 12:30 p. m. Fort San Carlos was attacked and shelled without any provocation on our part, without previous notification or the delivering of an ultimatum by the Panther, which tried to force the entrance. After a fight lasting an hour the Panther was obliged to abandon the contest and retreated. The fort has suffered no damage and only three men were wounded.

There have been popular demonstrations on the streets of Maracaibo as result of the shelling of the fort.

When the news of the engagement with the reported defeat of the Germans was made known here there was the wildest rejoicing. The streets were thronged all day by crowds of cheering, singing Venezuelans.—Baltimore Sun.

ASKS 125 WIDOWS TO DINE WITH HIM

Retired Banker Howlett Looks Forward to His Eighty-Second Birthday With Much Pleasure and Gratitude

Syracuse Jan. 18.—There are few more interesting characters than Alfred A. Howlett, of this city, who has announced his intention of giving a party to over 100 widows in celebration of his eighty-second birthday anniversary on February 17. The guests will be the widows of men with whom Mr. Howlett was personally acquainted, many of them living in other cities. In accordance with his idea "not to have a man around the house," Mr. Howlett has engaged an orchestra of women and waitresses. The invitations have not been sent, for Howlett is waiting until he can think of all those he wishes to invite. He started with a list of 75, but this soon got up to 100, and then 125, and today Mr. Howlett said he had thought of several more.

For fifty years Mr. Howlett was President of the Salt Springs National Bank and directed its affairs with great ability, resigning only two years ago on account of his age. He was formerly president of the Syracuse and Chenango Valley Railroad and President of the Syracuse Savings Bank. His name is connected with a score of enterprises. He was one of the first salt manufacturers of the city. He once ran a packing house in Geddes and later drove cattle on the Wabash River. He has made and lost millions. His health is excellent and his eyes are bright. They twinkle when the widows' party is mentioned. One of his friends said today:

"The party will lengthen his life, and will get more enjoyment out of it than the widows themselves."

Mr. Howlett has always been ready for a joke, practical or otherwise, and his friends are racking their brains to get some good one on him on the day of the party, which will last from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 8 o'clock in the evening.

"BEST PEOPLE IN TOWN." To the World correspondent who inquired about the dinner Mr. Howlett said:

"Boy, I want you to understand that the widows are the best people in this town. I don't propose to tell whom I invite. Widows are good company. I shouldn't wonder if they would all come. I have engaged an orchestra and the dinner will be good. What more can they ask, eh?"

"People don't seem to remember that widows are most always left out of society altogether, and I want to give them a good time."

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- It is good for children.
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- It is perfectly safe under all circumstances.
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First Presbyterian Church. He tells this story of how he came to be a resbyterian:

"When I was married I said to my wife: 'Minerva, where are we going to church?' She replied that she was a Methodist. I proposed that we go to the Unitarian Church. My wife wouldn't hear to that and finally I suggested as a compromise that we go to the Presbyterian Church, as I considered that about between the Methodists and the Unitarians."

Five years ago he was at death's door and a New York specialist was sent for. It was not thought that he would live more than a few hours. Wishing to find out if he had much fever, the specialist asked:

"Does he crave water?"

"Crave water?" shouted Mr. Howlett, rising in his bed. "I stopped drinking water in the 60's. Give me some whiskey!"

The specialist dropped the case right there and laughed all the way back to New York.—New York World.

TRIED TO CONCEAL IT. It's the old story of "murder will out," only in this case there's no crime. A woman feels run down, has backache or dyspepsia and thinks it's nothing and tries to hide it until she finally breaks down. Don't deceive yourself. Take Electric Bitters at once. It has a reputation for curing Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles and will revive you in 60 days. The worst forms of those maladies will quickly yield to the curative power of Electric Bitters. Only 50c. and guaranteed by Burwell & Dunn Co.

Well—So many Christmas presents are quite silly and useless. Belle—but they are never so useless that you can't give them to someone else next year.

NOT DUE TO CLIMATE. Catarrh is Found Everywhere.

Catarrh is at home anywhere and everywhere. While more common in cold, changeable climates, it is by no means confined to them, but prevails in every state and territory in the union.

The common definition of catarrh is a chronic cold in the head, which if long neglected often destroys the sense of smell and hearing; but there are many other forms of the disease, even more obstinate and dangerous. Catarrh of the throat and bronchial tubes as well as catarrh of the stomach and liver are almost as common as nasal catarrh and generally more difficult to cure.

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

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

An attorney and public speaker, who had been a catarrh sufferer for years says:

"Every fall I would catch a cold which would settle in my head and throat and hang on all winter long and every winter I would get a little worse. I was continually clearing my throat and my voice became affected to such an extent as to interfere with my public speaking."

"I tried troches and cheap cough cures and sometimes got relief, but only for a short time, until this winter when I learned of the new catarrh cure, Stuart's Catarrh Tablets, through a newspaper advertisement. Two fifty cent boxes which I bought at my druggist's, cleared my head and throat in five days and to guard against a return of my old trouble I keep a box of the tablets on hand and whenever I catch a little cold I take a tablet or two and ward off any serious developments."

Stuart's Catarrh Tablets deserves to head the list as a household remedy, to check and break up coughs and colds, because unlike many other catarrh and cough cures these tablets contain no opiate, cocaine or any injurious drug.

Tommy—Pop, were there any young women in the Middle Ages? Tommy's Pop—Certainly, my son, Tommy—I thought maybe they were all middle-aged women.

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A friend advised me to try URICISOL, which I did reluctantly, and greatly to my surprise one bottle cured me sound and well. I cheerfully recommend it to all who suffer as I did. It is also a very fine tonic. It increases the appetite, aids digestion and finally builds up the general health.

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