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THE DAILY FREE PRESS.

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY.

VOL. V.—NO. 235. KINSTON, N. C., MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1903 PRICE TWO CENTS.

CARACAS, VENEZUELA'S CAPITAL

[Special Correspondence.]

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 20.—This city, to which the eyes of the civilized world have been so long directed, is one of the prettiest towns on the western hemisphere. At present, however, it is more interesting on account of its being a storm center of political and diplomatic activity than on account of its beauty. Daily and nightly it is the scene of patriotic demonstrations, the populace joining in fervid outbreaks against what are termed the high handed proceedings of Germany and Great Britain.

Should worst come to worst and the allies, as is feared in some quarters, attempt an invasion of the capital in order to capture Castro and hold him as a hostage for payment of their claims, it is safe to say they will have some desperate work before Caracas is reached. The city is only six miles through the center of the mountains inland from La Guayra, but thirty-six miles by the old Spanish road, over which the marines of the combined force must go to take the capital, should that eventuality come to pass. Sixteen miles up from the coast along this road, at times broad and smooth, at times shelving to precipices, is a narrow pass, almost impassable for a storming party. It is said and believed by Venezuelans that 100 natives, knowing the country, could hold that pass against 5,000 men.

Like all other South American towns, Caracas is laid out in the most methodical manner in regular squares of equal area and equal frontage, divided by narrow streets running lengthwise from east to west and from north to south. The cross streets, the principal avenues of the city, are made of concrete pavement, with sidewalks of cement, while the less prominent thoroughfares are paved in rough stones. The streets are numbered from the Plaza Bolivar, a beautiful park in the center of the town. There is no variety and no display of taste in the architecture so far as dwellings are concerned, each house being exactly like its neighbor and all being built in the same way and of the

THE GOVERNMENT PALACE, CARACAS.

same materials. They are not all painted alike, but even with this distinction the architecture remains monotonous.

The unpleasant impression thus made upon a visitor is, however, completely effaced by the beauty and strength of the location and environment of the city, and when one enters a typical Venezuelan home one forgets in an instant the monotony of the exterior. One realizes that it is the habit of the average Carequeno to spend on interior decoration the money he has spared on the exterior. In the house of a comparatively well to do Venezuelan the finishings and furnishings will be found to be as elegant and as expensive as in the home of an American of the same class, and the wealthy Carequeno is even more extravagant than the wealthy American in the matter of interior appointments. Moreover, the houses, though squat, are broad and long, and the area covered by one of them would give room enough for the erection of a dozen houses like those that line the streets of New York.

Caracas is also noted for its beautiful parks, in the principal one of which is located a splendid statue of the great patriot Bolivar. Next to him the Venezuelans have the greatest reverence for George Washington, and in the second principal square in Caracas have erected in his honor a statue of almost equal magnificence to that of Bolivar.

The pride of the city, however, is the beautiful tomb of Bolivar. This tomb was originally in Trinity church, but in 1870 was changed into a national pantheon. In addition to the remains of Bolivar the pantheon contains those of all the presidents of the republic from 1870 and a few of the leading men.

American enterprise has made itself felt throughout the city and is largely responsible for the progress Caracas has made in recent years. There are two American telephone companies, and an American corporation operates the Bolivar Tramway company.

While Caracas is not the hotbed of disease which so many Americans popularly suppose it to be, it is far from being a healthy city. Bad sewerage renders it susceptible to fevers of all sorts. Yellow fever is always sporadic, but does not produce the panic that it does in the United States, for with careful nursing a Venezuelan has a better chance of recovery than would an American stricken with typhoid fever. Another thing that tends to make Caracas unhealthy are the sudden changes of climate, verging from a cool, bracing atmosphere at dawn to an extreme sultriness at noon and finally to a damp, clammy chill at nightfall. Such are the meteorological conditions of Caracas for the entire year.

HAYS DUBOIS.

Her Latest Break.

"My six-year-old girl is an awful chatterbox," said a broker, "and the worst of it is that when we have guests at the house she is continually making breaks of the worst sort—breaks that tend to rattle the dry bones of the family skeleton in the closet. Recently when we had company at dinner she allowed her tongue to run away with her, as usual, the result of which was that she very much embarrassed both her father and mother, although the guests, I am free to say, seemed delighted. I had a very serious talk with her and impressed upon her, or tried to, that she must not tell any family secret. The next time we had company she was permitted to come to the table only by promising that she wouldn't utter a word. She behaved beautifully and had nothing to say until the dessert was about to be taken away. Then her lips began to quiver, and finally she burst into tears. 'Why, what's the matter, darling?' her mother asked. 'I—I want some more ice cream, if that isn't a family secret!' she wailed between sobs."—Philadelphia Record.

Nutritious Value of Oysters.

The popular belief that the oyster is a most nutritious article of diet does not rest upon any scientific basis. The oyster as a food could not satisfy the demands of the human body. While the oyster, when not stewed, is very palatable, wholesome and easily assimilated by weak, impaired stomachs, it cannot be contended for a moment that it contains such elements and nutrition as may be found in beans, rice or potatoes. There is very little, if any, fatmaking or muscle building material in the oyster. Its composition is largely nitrogenous, and, being rich in phosphates, it is generally regarded as an excellent food for the brain, but a man reduced to an exclusive diet of oysters would soon find himself deficient in adipose tissue and in those elements that go to make up physical force and vitality in the human body.

Rossini's Memory.

The composer of "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" was blessed with a not very retentive memory, especially for names of persons introduced to him, a forgetfulness which was frequently the cause of much merriment whenever Rossini was among company. One day he met Bishop, the English composer. Rossini knew the face well enough and at once greeted him. "Ah, my dear Mr. ——," but he could progress no further. To convince him that he had not forgotten him Rossini commenced whistling Bishop's glee, "When the Wind Blows," a compliment which "the English Mozart" recognized and would as readily have heard as his less musical surname.

Optical Illusion.

A firm which was sued in an English court for the price of a sign defended the case on the ground that the "o" in their name was smaller than the other letters. It was proved by measurement, however, that it was a sixteenth of an inch larger, allowance having been made for the fact that, owing to an optical illusion, the letter "o" always looks smaller than the neighboring letters. Judgment was given for the signmakers.

But They Use Them.

The danger of carrying an argument to its logical conclusion is thus set forth by the Chicago Post: They were at a picnic. "Fingers were made before forks," she laughed as she helped herself in democratic fashion. "Yes," he admitted, "and people were made before clothes." She hastily reached for a fork.

Crooked Noses.

Very few people's noses are set properly on their faces. Ninety-nine out of every 100 turn to the right.

A Murderer's Whim.

A murderer in Canada awaiting execution insisted on a game of pingpong just preceding death and also for a view of the scaffold, both of which wishes were gratified.

An Ancient Alliance.

The very earliest example of a national alliance is contained in what is the oldest historical document yet known, inscribed on a bowl found at Sungir, in Chaldaea—the Shinar of the Bible—and dating from about 7000 B. C.

A Ferocious Ferret.

Before it could be killed an escaped ferret destroyed eighteen chickens, eleven ducks, two pigeons and a valuable tame prize rabbit at Malton, Yorkshire, England.

To Judge a River's Breadth.

It is necessary to make use only of the eyes and the brim of a hat to measure the width of any ordinary stream or even of a good sized river, and here is the way to do it:

Select a part of the river bank where the grounds run back level and, standing at the water's edge, fix your eyes on the opposite bank. Now, move your hat down over your brow until the edge of the brim is exactly on a line with the water line on the other side. This will give you a visual angle that may be used on any level surface, and if, as has been suggested, the ground on your side of the river be flat you may "lay off" a corresponding distance on it. To do this you have only to hold your head perfectly steady, after getting the angle with your hat brim, supporting your chin with your hand, if necessary, and turn slowly around until your back is toward the river. Now, take careful note of where your hat brim cuts the level surface of the ground as you look over the latter, and from where you stand to that point will be the width of the river, a distance that may readily be measured by stepping. If you are careful in all these details, you can come within a few feet of the river's width.—Detroit Free Press.

A Curious Royal Custom.

When any Spanish sovereign dies, the body is at once submitted to the process of fossilization, nor can it be placed in the royal pantheon until the body has been absolutely turned into stone. Curiously enough, the period required for fossilization varies considerably. Some royal bodies have become solidified in a very short period, while others have taken years before the fossilization took place. It took exactly thirteen years to convert the body of the father of Alfonso XIII. of Spain into stone.

Riding Away With the Bride.

In many of the border counties of England the quaint old bridal customs of hundreds of years ago are still in vogue. The parents carefully abstain from appearing at the marriage ceremony, clinging to the idea that the bridegroom still rides away on a foaming steed with his bride behind him as in the good old days. The brides prefer the custom to the modern method of being given away at the altar in the orthodox fashion.

To Reform Him.

Minister—You say you are going to marry a man to reform him. That is noble. May I ask who it is?

Miss Beauti—It's young Mr. Bondclipper.

Minister—Indeed! I did not know he had any bad habits.

Miss Beauti—Yes, his friends say that he is becoming quite miserly.—New York Weekly.

Good Position.

A young lady applicant for a school, says a St. Louis humorist, was asked the question, "What is your position upon whipping children?" and her reply was, "My usual position is on a chair, with the child held firmly across my knees face downward." She got the school.

Ocular Demonstration.

Tourist—Land pretty fertile around here?

Western Farmer—Waal, yer see them telegraph poles? Waal, las' week they was only hitchin' posts!

The Men With Ideas.

Ideas rule the world today, and a new idea leads the world to progress; hence the man with ideas is the real sovereign and leader of the people.—Maxwell's Talisman.

His Oversight.

He—Why didn't you answer my letter asking you to marry me?

She—You didn't inclose a stamp.—Town and Country.

There are over 40,000 total abstainers in the British army.

Fewer gallons; wears longer: Devoe.

Asheville: Bribery in the November election is charged by Major J. Moody, who is contesting the seat of Congressman-elect Gudger. It is claimed on the side that five thousand dollads was sent here by Joseph W. Babcock, chairman of the Republican congressional committee, to the Republican executive committee of this district. It is positively stated by Gudger and his friends that this money came in two checks payable to the district committee's chairman, B. Moore, and that these checks were cashed about fifteen days before the election.

Unconscious From Croup.

During a sudden and terrible attack of croup our little girl was unconscious from strangulation, says A. L. Spafford, postmaster, Chester, Mich., and a dose of One Minute Cough Cure was administered and repeated often. It reduced the swelling and inflammation, cut the mucus and shortly the child was resting easy and speedily recovered. It cures Coughs, Colds, LaGrippe and all Throat and Lung troubles. One Minute Cough Cure heals in the throat and chest and enable the lungs to contribute pure, health-giving oxygen to the blood.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Senator Simmons Writes for New York American.

Opposition to monopolies and to taxation levied in behalf of individuals and special interests instead of for the purpose of raising revenue to defray expenses of the government, economically administered, is fundamental in the Democratic creed.

In raising the more than four hundred million dollars by custom necessary to meet annual appropriations abundant opportunity will be afforded without prostituting the power of taxation to purposes of private greed to do equity to American labor and industries.

There should be no uncertainty in the platform declarations of the party either as to tariff or as to monopolies. They should be in line with its well-known attitude in the past upon these questions.

Under our present economic and industrial system there is an undoubted relationship between the prevailing tariff system and the trusts. Speaking in a general way the two are inseparable.

Therefore, in addition to the general demand for a return to the Democratic theory of a revenue tariff, there should be a specific and urgent demand for the immediate revision of the tariff wherever the duties now imposed furnish shelter to monopolies. The platform should demand, not only the removal of this tariff shelter as a means of trust disestablishment, but it should demand the enactment of adequate prohibitory legislation, both for the purpose of dissolution through the courts of these illegal combinations, and punishing those who are guilty of participation in its violation.

But all trusts and monopolies are not feed and supported by the tariff. There are combinations of capital that have become, by reason of their control of the markets, practical monopolies which may not be illegal organizations or capable of being reached by any prohibitory or penal laws congress may constitutionally pass or that it would be wise under dual system of government for it to enact. These combinations are no less harmful and inimical to the public welfare than monopolies resulting from illegal organizations. Our platform should demand that this class of combinations be brought under government supervision and control.

Government control is not the proper remedy for illegal combinations and conspiracies. The remedy for such organizations is dissolution, extermination, and punishment, in addition to the removal of the inducements and temptations found on our tariff schedules.

There should be no attempt at Government ownership of railroads or of any subject of private ownership, until it has been conclusively demonstrated that we are powerless to protect the people and the government against the control of the railroads and other confederated interests.

That time will not come until the futility of our institutions to accomplish the purposes of their creation has been proven. The question which that situation would present will be one far more serious and fundamental than any question affecting the government ownership of railroads or other utilities—the question of re-casting and building anew our whole political system.

I do not believe that time and situation will ever arrive, for, in my judgment, the government has ample power to protect itself and the people against the encroachments of these influences if an earnest effort, commensurate with the end in view, is made, but no such effort will be made while the government remains in the hands of those who either sympathize with or see no danger in these encroachments.

The crowned heads of every nation.
The rich men, poor men and misers.
All join in paying tribute to
DeWitt's Little Early Risers.

H. Williams, San Antonio, Tex., writes: Little Early Riser Pills are the best I ever used in my family. I unhesitatingly recommend them to everybody. They cure Constipation, Billiousness, sick Headache, Torpid Liver, Jaundice, Malaria and all other liver troubles.

Wm. Allen, colored, who lived about 4 miles from Franklington, finished his coffin on December 19th, 1902. Sixteen years ago, he says, he owed $2,800 and prayed for his life to be spared until he could pay this off, and now he is ready to die. He is 66 years old. He owes 3 horses and a plantation and is prosperous.

A Scientific Discovery.

Kodol does for the stomach that which it is unable to do for itself, even when but slightly disordered or overloaded. Kodol supplies the natural juices of digestion and does the work of the stomach, relaxing the nervous tension, while the inflamed muscles of that organ are allowed to rest and heal. Kodol digests what you eat and enables the stomach and digestive organs to transform all food into rich, red blood.

STATE SCHOOL BOOKS.

Plans For Improving Present System of Distribution.

Raleigh News.Observer, 4th.

The matter of suitable facilities for supplying the pupils of public schools with the books on the State public school book list was discussed in the office of the State superintendent of public instruction yesterday.

There has been trouble in many counties of the State since the adoption of the State list, this being because books were not on hand when needed by the pupils. Reports reaching the office of State Superintendent, have told how schools have been retarded in their work because of the failure of books to be on hand when needed.

The publishers have been notified of the failure to have their books at the depositories, but the complaints had so increased that it was deemed necessary to have a conference with the representatives of the various publishing houses. This was held yesterday.

There were present at the conference State Superintendent Joyner, Major C. L. Patton, of the University Publishing company; Mr. J. W. Thackston, of the American Book company; Mr. F. O. Spain, of D. C. Heath & Company and Mr. F. B. Arendell, of the B. F. Johnson Company.

Complaints from forty counties were taken up and considered, and it was agreed that the publishers would at once take up the matter with the county superintendents, and the managers of book depositories in the counties where there was trouble. It was also agreed that the publishers would seek to have the cause of complaint relieved by establishing additional depositories in the counties in which there is reasonable need for these, and would, in all the depositories established, keep an ample supply of books on hand.

One provision that was agreed to will aid in having the books required promptly on hand. This is that the county superintendents will be directed to notify the keepers of the depositories in their counties, and also the State superintendent, of the date fixed by the county board of education for the opening of the schools, at least one month before these open. On receiving this notice the State superintendent will at once notify the publishers, who are expected to have an ample supply of books on hand at their depositories before the schools open, having the month in which to do so. This, it is hoped, will do away with all complaints about the distribution of text books.

The text book commission was not called in session for the reason that it was not thought that any official action on the part of the commission was necessary to remedy existing complaints or difficulties.

Typhoid Fever all Over The State.

Mr. Editor: Many of our citizens seem disposed to think that there must be more local cause for typhoid fever in our town than elsewhere. But a casual perusal of the bulletin of the North Carolina Board of Health, for December, will show that during that month seventy counties of North Corolina reported cases of typhoid fever. And when it is known that a large part of the cases are not reported to the county superintendents of health, it will be seen that we have no cause to think that we are in a worse condition than other places.

M. D.

Railroad Man Accidentally Shot

Asheville, Jan. 3.—As the result of an accidential shooting Thursday afternoon Will Bishop, a railroad man 23 years old, died Saturday morning. Thursday afternoon Bishop was in the room of his friend, John Seay, a cal. boy of the Southern Railway, 15 years old, at the home of Seay's parents. They were examining Bishop's pistol. Seay took all the cartridges out and laid them on the bed, while he snapped the pistol to try it. He then laid the pistol down and Bishop replaced the cartridges. There were not enough cartridges to fill the chambers. Seay then picked up the pistol again and snapped it several times pointing it aimlessly around the room. When the chamber revolved to a cartridge it fired and struck Bishop in the larynx, cutting the pneumogastric nerve. Seay was heart broken at the accident. Bishop's body was taken to his home at Inman, S. C.

One Hundred Dollars a Box

is the value H. A. Tisdale, Summerton, S. C., places on DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. He says: "I had the piles for 20 years. I tried many doctors and medicines, but all failed except DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. It cured me. It is a combination of the healing properties of Witch Hazel with antiseptics and emollients; relieves and permanently cures blind, bleeding itching and protruding piles, sores, cuts, bruises eczema, salt rheum and all skin diseases.

OLD NORTH STATE NEWS AND GOSSIP

ODD AND INTERESTING HAPPENINGS.

Clipped and Rehashed From Our North Carolina Exchanges.

As a result of blood poison and lockjaw caused by a hurt received while handling a toy pistol, the 10-year son of William Faucette, colored, of Durham died Friday.

The Wachovia Loan and Trust company, of Winston, has increased its capital from $200,000 to $500,000, all of which has been subscribed. This is now the largest banking institution in the State.

Fayetteville Observer: A northbound passenger train on the A. C. L. ran over and instantly killed a seven-year old colored child at Rex Tuesday. A number of children were playing near the track, and it is said that while attempting to run across the track in front of the train the child fell and met her death.

In Stanly county, near Gold Hill, John Summit, a 14 year old boy, had climbed a tree and was making his way out on a limb about 75 feet from the ground, when the limb broke and he fell. The boy's neck was broken and he had ceased to breathe when a companion, who was nearby at the time of the accident, reached him.

Chas. Brown, better known as "Yankee" Brown, aged 35 years, was killed in the Southern Railway yard in Salisbury Tuesday night. He had been in the employe of the railroad about two weeks and was a car coupler. While uncoupling a car his head was caught between the bumpers and so badly crushed that he died several hours later.

The Durham Traction company has published a notice that application would be made to the General Assembly for a charter to run a car line to Chapel Hill. General Manager W. W. S. Butler of the Traction Company says that the line will be built some time this year. This matter has been agitated for some time, the people at Durham and at Chapel Hill being very anxious about getting the line.

Belle Cates, a white woman, of Durham, has been arrested on a charge that is one of the most degrading known to the social laws in this southland. She is charged with living with a negro man. Henry Holeman, the man in the case, is already in jail and the woman was locked behind the same steel doors—she and her little negro babe. The two defendants will be tried at the January term of court.

The board of aldermen of Goldsboro have increased the price of recommendations for liquor license from $400 to $500 and has enacted an ordinance prohibiting its sale within certain limits inside the city. The prohibitionists have considered this action as indicating public sentiment in their favor and they will make renewed efforts to get an election on the question of prohibition during the month of June.

Rockingham Anglo-Saxon: The dead body of Julia Ann Terry, colored, was found on the road near Hoffman one morning last week, and the attending circumstances indicated that she was murdered. She got off the train at Hoffman and left town in company with Neal Austin, colored. Pistol shots were heard in the direction in which she went, and her dead body was found in the road next morning with a hole through her heart. It is learned, so we hear, from parties for whom she has been cooking, that she had something near $60 on her person, and it is supposed that she was robbed. Austin is missing.

Letter to Holton & Kennedy.

Kinston, N. C.

Dear Sirs: Porterhouse, so much; neck, so much; all the way between.

Just so with paint. Devoe Lead and Zinc is the porterhouse. Nobody wants the neck; the between, some say, is good enough for them.

But Devoe costs less, not more, than between. Lead and oil is between; it is the old-fashion paint. But zinc has come in. Zinc toughens white lead. Devoe Lead and Zinc is the paint.

Mr. John N. Deitel, Fair Haven, N. Y., writes:

Mr. Charles Hollenbeck, of this place, painted his house three years ago with Devoe Lead and Zinc; his father painted at the same time with lead and oil. To-day the son's house looks as well as the day it was painted, while the father's house was all chalked off and needs painting very badly. The father says he will paint with Devoe next time.

Yours truly,
F. W. Devoe & Co.,
New York.

P. S.—R. W. Canady & Son, sell our paint.