

Venezuela is Preparing for Defense

Vigorous Work at Strategic Points--Men Are Volunteering--National House Calls for Facts as to Extent and Nature of Claims

Washington, Dec. 12.—Mr. DeArmond of the State Department introduced a resolution regarding the secretary of state in relation to the extent and nature of claims of Great Britain and Germany against Venezuela. It calls for all the knowledge and facts upon the subject in the possession of the department of state as to whether the correctness of the claims is disputed by Venezuela, what effort has been made toward arbitration, what part the United States has taken in the controversy, what officials of this government have been consulted, what has been done by the United States with respect to due and respectful observance of the Monroe doctrine and to what extent the United States has been consulted and whether the United States can by a firm assertion of that doctrine bring about or aid in a fair and peaceful adjustment of the disputes between the nations affected so as to have full respect for the Monroe doctrine and to preserve the governmental and territorial integrity and independence of Venezuela.

An official bulletin issued at the State Department this morning says:

"The Venezuelan government has requested Mr. Bowen to propose to Great Britain and Germany that the differences arising out of the claims for alleged damages and injuries to British and German subjects during the civil war be submitted to arbitration. This is in accordance with the proposition made to the German and British governments in reply to their ultimatum.

ARBITRATION NOT ACCEPTABLE

In confirmation of rumor of fighting in La Guayra.

London, Dec. 12.—The foreign officials say they have not received information to the effect that Venezuela had requested Minister Bowen to act as arbitrator. They think it is not likely that the proposition has been made, but if such is the case, they do not consider that arbitration at this stage would be acceptable to Great Britain.

While there is no confirmation of the rumor of fighting in La Guayra the newspapers this morning are beginning to show a keener appreciation of the serious possibilities involved by President Castro's continued defiance. This feeling will hardly be lessened by a report that a British vessel has been seized at Puerto Cabello, and it is shown in the eager demands upon the government to present in parliament documents explaining the grounds for its action, so that the country be no longer in doubt as to what provocation the government has received. Questions as to how it will be possible to enforce the payment of Great Britain's demands on Venezuela without costly military operations and whether even the occupation of the capital of that country would achieve the desired result, are being asked.

While it is recognized that President Castro has nothing to lose and that the Venezuelans are incensed at the sinking of their ships and may set aside their internal dissensions and make stout resistance, hoping for some assistance from the United States or France, much gratitude is expressed at Minister Bowen's prompt intervention in behalf of the British and German residents. Considerable alarm is expressed at the possible fate of British subjects, not only in the coast towns but in the interior of Venezuela.

Through all the editorial articles published this morning there runs a strong vein of hope, more or less openly expressed, that the United States will interfere in some way to secure an adjustment of the difficulty acceptable to both sides, either by arbitration or otherwise. Some newspapers even go so far as to argue that it is the duty of the United States to coerce Venezuela into satisfying foreign claims.

Think Castro is Testing

Berlin, Dec. 12.—President Castro's war preparations and his public utterances are regarded in official quarters here as designed to see how far the allies are willing to go, as a test of the further attitude of the administration at Washington and above all, as efforts to unite his own people and reconcile them to his dictatorship.

The *Vosszeitung* says the British and German forces do not intend to carry the campaign into the interior of Venezuela, which would be necessary if they meant to capture President Castro. The paper says such an expedition would be accompanied with the greatest difficulties, besides leading to the shedding of blood. The allies,

therefore, will confine their action to the coasts.

Should Avoid a Quarrel

Berlin, Dec. 12.—The *Local Anzeiger*, in its issue tonight, says it trusts that the active employment of troops in Venezuela will be avoided as such a step would be likely to raise misunderstandings with America unless the susceptibilities of the latter were most carefully untouched. The paper points out that many are interested in producing a quarrel, which the existing friendly relations between Germany and America should be able to prevent.

English Papers Blame Germany

London, Dec. 12.—The English press of all political opinions is unanimous in declaring that the sinking of the Venezuelan warships was a mistake. One paper describes it as theatrical piracy. There is outspoken blame for Germany's overbearing methods. Arising from this is aversion to co-operating with a country which is popularly regarded as having been the leader of anti-English sentiment in Europe during recent years. And there is a disposition to welcome the entry of the United States upon the scene. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that American opinion is a factor in the situation that has to be regarded all the more as Great Britain's august ally is not the most prudent of potentates, as England knows from experience in China when his fist is clenched for a blow.

The *Westminster Gazette* says that the English have reasons that the Germans may not have for treating American susceptibilities with consideration. The *Echo* declares that it is doubtful if the United States will tolerate a really serious campaign. It adds that Great Britain is allowing herself to be dragged by Germany into a needless act of violence.

The *Globe*, which is a Jingo organ, thinks that the sinking of the ships was unnecessary and impolitic, but says that it is a British and German question and that the two empires must carry it through by their own methods.

Defensive Preparations

La Guayra, Venezuela, Dec. 12.—The defensive preparations at the strategic points on the heights back of the town are being vigorously pushed forward. Reports of powder in the fortresses of Lavagia and San Carlos have been removed. Great patriotic demonstrations are being made and every one capable of bearing arms is offering his services.

The embargo placed upon the harbor corporation has been removed.

Preservative Measures

Caracas, Venezuela (Thursday) Dec. 12.—The government has taken preservative measures at La Guayra. All the deposit of coal at the navy yard and all the British cars on the La Guayra railroad have been brought here, rendering impossible the transportation of the allied troops by rail. General Ferrer, the minister of war, spent all of the day in choosing spots in the mountains where trenches are to be dug. The governor of Caracas has issued the following decree:

"All Venezuelans living in the federal district, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, must enroll themselves in the militia; any such person refusing to enroll voluntarily, as patriotism demands, will be declared a traitor and sent before the tribunals."

Yesterday after a long conference with President Castro United States Minister Bowen obtained an order for the liberation of the remaining British and German subjects who were held prisoners and an hour later all had been released.

The orders for the release of the prisoners has made a good impression and is looked upon as a politic act on the part of President Castro.

Every one in Caracas believes the situation to be desperate and threatens war unless Minister Bowen succeeds in having the matters in dispute submitted to arbitration.

It is stated on good authority that the Venezuelan government has asked United States Minister Bowen to act as arbitrator in the controversy with Great Britain and Germany.

The English telephone office has been seized.

Dangerous Co-operation

London, Dec. 12.—There is a complete chorus in the daily and weekly press of England against the sinking of the Venezuelan war ships. The writers with one accord, seize this incident to furnish the text of articles elaborating the grave danger that may be expected from the present Anglo-German co-operation. The *Unionist*, *Spectator*, the *Tory*, *Saturday Review* and the *Liberal Speaker*, give the chief position in their columns to discussions of the deadlock. All express the most serious misgivings if hostilities are pressed. The articles appear before President Castro's proposal is known, and the *Speaker* alone invokes arbitration as the solution of the dispute. It concludes by observing: "Probably we will end by submitting our claims to arbitration."

The *Spectator* thinks that Venezuela's resistance may be looked upon

with secret approval by the German commanders. It recalls that the entente cordiale between Great Britain and the United States is regarded in Berlin with suspicious and angry eyes. Anything that would weaken it would be regarded by Chancellor Von Bülow and perhaps by his master, as a political god send. It adds: "It would be still better for the German policy if a quarrel should arise in which Great Britain and Germany, whether reluctantly or willingly, would be compelled to hold together for then there would be a chance of defying the Monroe doctrine without immediate ruin."

The *Spectator* says it would hear with pleasure that the Great Republic which now protects the South American states from invasion had assumed over them that direct protectorate, which to all human appearances must ultimately be established and which would involve direct diplomatic responsibility.

The *Saturday Review* regrets that the British and Germans resorted to force against the polite and vivacious Venezuelan people: It blames ill-informed and reckless writers for rejoicing at the prospect of the destruction of a state when it is to England's best interests to assiduously cultivate good relations with the state. The *Review* indulges in its usual anti-American sling, proclaiming that the non-inter-

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PRIVATE PENSION DAY

Large Number of Bills Passed in 39 Minutes

Washington, Dec. 12.—This was private pension day in the house of representatives. Before the regular order was demanded some minor business was transacted and the bill to appropriate \$1,000,000 for the extirpation of the epidemic of foot and mouth diseases among live stock in New England was called up.

Mr. Maddox of Georgia objected to the consideration of the bill until he had an opportunity to examine it.

The house then proceeded to the consideration of private pension bills. One hundred and seventy-three bills were acted upon, all favorably but one, the beneficiary of which had died since the bill was reported, and reported to the house with a recommendation that they be passed. The bills were passed in 39 minutes.

An agreement was reached to consider the bill relating to the suppression of foot and mouth disease, on Tuesday next, the appropriation sections to be stricken out, they being under consideration by the committee on appropriations.

A session of the house was ordered for Sunday, February 1, to consider resolutions of respect to the memory of the late Senator McMillan of Michigan.

At 3:05 the house adjourned.

Thirteen Students Dismissed

Lexington, Va., Dec. 12.—Thirteen members of the third class of the Virginia Military Institute cadet corps, embracing the president and vice president of the class, were dismissed from the school this afternoon. Some for engaging in Tuesday night's fire work frolic, others for further gross disorder after taps last night because some of their classmates were placed under arrest for yelling, and disorder in their rooms, and one for neglect of duty as

Six People Injured in Wreck at High Point

Open Switch Turns Passenger Train Into Siding Crashing Into Freight. Due to Carelessness of the Brakeman

High Point, Dec. 12.—Special.—People living in eastern part of the town were startled by a terrific noise this morning at 5:20 o'clock. No. 39, one of the fast passenger trains running between Washington and Jacksonville, Fla., collided in a head-on collision with a northbound freight standing on the siding within the east yards. A switch had been left open and the giant engine with its six Pullman cars loaded with passengers, gave a severe to the left and went crashing into the freight. Both engines were raised from the track, their tenders telescoped and their machinery bent and twisted into scrap iron. A car load of lumber adjoining the engine of the freight was hurled one hundred feet down an embankment and two other cars splintered into kindling wood.

The tender of the passenger train went crashing through the baggage car and stopped within two feet of the rear end and who escaped from the wrecked car with slight bruises. Six persons were wounded: Engineer Rowzell of the fast passenger train and Engineer Sweeney of the freight and their firemen and two passengers, who received bruises about the face. Engineer Rowzell suffered a broken leg and possibly

officer by deserting his post. The other forty cadets of the class engaged in Tuesday night's frolic, action in whose case has not yet been taken by Superintendent Shipp are under close arrest. Already some are expressing regret at their outbreak of discipline.

Railway Automobiles

Paris, Dec. 12.—A new system of railway communication will be inaugurated in France in June. It consists of the substitution of automobiles for the existing locomotives and cars. Each automobile will be the size of present corridor carriages and will accommodate forty passengers and their baggage.

They will contain a lavatory and refreshment bar and will be capable of making 61 1-2 miles an hour. The invention is beyond the experimental stage and its application is only delayed for the construction of the necessary rolling stock.

TROUBLE IN LANDING

Pacific Cable Stopped Near Shore by Nasty Sea

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—An enormous crowd gathered at Ocean Beach this morning to witness the landing of the Pacific cable from the cable steamer *Silverton*, but owing to a strong tide and heavy winds which rolled up a nasty sea it was found impossible to take the cable ashore. While trying to pull the cable ashore a rope broke under the strain and the severed end flying back hit a group of prominent men and cable officials who were standing near by. Clarence Mackay was bruised as well as Frank Hotelling of New York, who is connected with the cable company. George W. McNair, a millionaire wheat shipper and flour manufacturer was knocked down and for a few minutes was unconscious from the shock. Photographer Fowler was also knocked down and bruised. An attempt will be made tomorrow morning to land the cable.

STUDENTS POISONED

One Hundred and Fifty Annapolis Midshipmen

Annapolis, Dec. 12.—One hundred and fifteen midshipmen nearly a quarter of the whole naval academy, are suffering with ptomaine poisoning contained in something which they ate at Wednesday evening supper. The disease manifested itself by severe pains in the stomach, nausea and a body rash. Quite a large number are ill enough to stop work, and the naval hospital is entirely full, the others being in quarters. It is not definitely known what caused the trouble, opinion being divided between sausage and salad dressing, both of which were part of Wednesday's supper.

Large Interests Consolidate

New York, Dec. 12.—A banking consolidation was announced today which will bring into harmony the large insurance and financial interests of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Equitable Life Assurance Society and the Morton Trust Company. This result was brought about at meetings of the directors of the National Bank of the United States, which was acquired some months ago by the interests which control the Trust Company, and directors of the Western National Bank.

Payne Regrets the Star's Publication

Writes Letter to Senator Simmons Disclaiming Responsibility for the Criticisms -- The President Hears from Postmaster Vick

By THOMAS J. FENCE

Washington, Dec. 12.—Special.—Postmaster General Payne addressed a letter to Senator Simmons, in which he disclaims responsibility for the story in the *Star* criticising the action of the Democratic delegation for requesting the removal of Postmaster Vick at Wilson. The letter speaks for itself and is given herewith.

Office of the Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., Dec. 11, 1902. Hon. F. M. Simmons, U. S. Senate. My Dear Sir:—The following article appeared in the *Washington Evening Star* of the 5th inst.:

(The article referred to was published in the *Star* in its entirety on the morning of the 10th.)

Probably this article was written because of a short conversation I had with a representative of that paper. There are some parts of it, however, which are so far from reflecting my sentiments that I cannot refrain from dropping you this note to correct the impression which I am sure the article might make upon your mind.

One sentence of the article reads: "The administration is disposed to regard as officious and premeditated interference of North Carolina Democratic members of congress in the case of Postmaster Vick at Wilson." Another reads: "The place for such objection to be made is in the senate when nominations are sent there, and it is rather an unheard of proceeding for a Democratic delegation to visit the postmaster general and proclaim its opposition to a man for an office."

I assure you that there is no such feeling as the two sentences quoted from the article would imply. It is not unusual for this department to enquire of you and of other members of your party in congress regarding the character and capacity of men who have been proposed to us for office in your several states, and we expect to continue to do so where we expect we can obtain information of value in determining the character and standing of persons applying for office.

I regret the publication of that part of the article which would give the impression that the administration of this department had any feeling of resentment regarding the action of your delegation or that we criticised your action in this case, which was clearly within your right and duty, looking at the question involved from your standpoint, although your point of view does not commend itself to my judgment as the correct one.

Very truly yours,
H. C. PAYNE,
Postmaster General.

There is no doubt but that the Democratic delegation made a wise move when it asked for the appointment of a white man of character and standing as successor to Vick. That it was a political move no one will deny but it was necessary to keep straight the record of the party in the light of previous events. President Roosevelt has played politics every time he has considered a southern appointment and he has followed the advice of the wisest politicians in the Republican party in every instance. The view of Postmaster General Payne prevails at the white house regarding all matters having political significance. That is why close observers believe that both Crum and Vick will win out in the long run. Payne is the man who impressed upon the president the necessity for giving recognition to the wishes and views of the negroes of the north, who have such an influence on the result of elections in half a dozen northern states. The action of the North Carolina Democrats is considered one of the shrewdest moves made on the political checker board in many a day. Republicans take this view. They more than equalled the president in the game of politics. A fact generally conceded.

The president heard today from Samuel H. Vick, Wilson's colored postmaster, who made prompt reply to the letter addressed by Senator Pritchard to the chief executive, in which the party loyalty of the postmaster was assailed. Vick in his letter defends himself from the charges made by Senator Pritchard, declares that he always has been and is still a loyal Republican and boldly asserts that he did no more than the president would have done under the circumstances had he been put face to face with the lily white movement. The preliminary of Vick's letter began with the statement that at no time in his life has he done "everything in his power to oppose the Republican party" in North Carolina. He declared that this statement applied to the last as well as all previous elections. Vick asserts in his communication to the president that he remained passive throughout the last

election. His understanding of the fight was that it had been taken out of his hands. In other words no appeal was made to the negroes for their vote and he says it was generally understood that any assertive action on their part would have been considered as a species of officious meddling, and interference by those in authority. The presumption is expressed by Vick that Senator Pritchard had this understanding of the situation. The colored postmaster seized the humorous side of the situation in his letter to the president. A blazing placard, he wrote, might have been appropriately placed over the entrance to the hall in which the Republican state convention met that reads as follows: "No negroes need apply." If, he continued, the president had received such treatment as did the negroes at that convention he would have gone gunning for Senator Pritchard, the responsible party for the election of his race—and his efforts would have been attended with more success than his Mississippi bear hunt.

The strong feature of Vick's letter to the president is his assertion that he voted the Republican state ticket in the recent election, which is disputed by the senior senator. Vick says he has affidavits to show that he was one of the two Republicans in his precinct to vote the Republican ticket. He also declares that he will join Senator Pritchard in his suggestion that an agent be sent to Wilson by the president and that if it can be shown that a majority of the responsible people favor Boykin instead of himself the president can consider that he has retired from the race.

The letter makes a good presentation of Vick's cause and it may have an important bearing on the selection of Wilson's postmaster.

Dr. V. E. Turner of Raleigh, and Dr. J. E. Tucker of Roxboro, are in the city and attended a banquet given by the local dental association. Tomorrow they appear before congressional committee in behalf of the dental bill.

General Julian S. Carr is here. He sent a handsome floral design to Lee's undertaking establishment in memory of the late John B. Hussey.

Other arrivals are Mr. and Mrs. John Ward, of Raleigh; D. K. Pope, of Charlotte; J. Clyde Cheek and E. A. Hughes, of Hillsboro; G. F. Harkins, of Asheville; A. E. Stevens, of New Bern.

VICK'S PROVOCATION

Voting Against Republicans Does Not Matter

Washington, Dec. 12.—The *Star* says this afternoon:

"The impression is growing that the president will give another term to the colored postmaster at Wilson, notwithstanding the indorsement of another man by Senator Pritchard. The fact that Vick voted against the Republican ticket in North Carolina in November is not held against him by the administration which feels that the provocation of Vick as a negro was considerable, has race having been refused participation in the councils of the Republican party of the state and practically invited to dispose of their suffrage as they desired."

Speaking of Senator Pritchard entering the race for the circuit judgeship the *Star* says:

"The opinion has long been entertained that Senator Pritchard would prefer a high judicial position to a continuation in politics, but some of those who know him intimately assert that his inclination is to remain a politician. Senator Pritchard is an able lawyer and would have strong backing for circuit judge if he desired the position. His relations with President Roosevelt have been cordial, and it is not anticipated that the possible nomination of S. H. Vick as postmaster at Wilson, N. C., would disturb their friendly relations."

Against Prohibiting Polygamy

Washington, Dec. 12.—By a vote of 7 to 6 the House committee on judiciary decided against reporting a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution giving congress the power to prohibit polygamy.

The vote against the resolution was: Jenkins of Wisconsin; Thomas of Iowa; Parker of New Jersey; Republican; Lanham of Texas; Elliott of South Carolina; Clayton of Alabama and Smith of Kentucky, Democrats; and its favor Alexander of New York; Littlefield of Maine; Fowler of New Jersey; Warner of Illinois; Overstreet of Indiana, Republicans, and DeArmond of Missouri, Democrat.

Indignation on the Isthmus

Colon, Dec. 12.—Much indignation is expressed on the Isthmus against the action of Germany and Great Britain in Venezuelan waters.

General Uribe Uribe, who was recently at the head of the Colombian revolutionists, has published a letter advising Colombia to await the falling in of the Panama canal concession in 1904, which would leave Colombia a free hand in the matter of the canal.