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WASHINGTON NEWS.

SPAIN AND HER REPORTS ABOUT WAR.

Do Truth of Foreign Aid for Spain. Anti-Insurrection Talk About Spanish Tariff Hearings.

JOURNAL BUREAU, WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.

"If Spain doesn't wish to see a more radical change of sentiment in the United States in favor of Cuba than that which has recently taken place in favor of a conservative course in dealing with the Cuban question," said a high official, "who will call off the lying press reports she has lately been employing in Europe." He was referring especially to the report first published in a Paris dispatch to the London Times, that Germany had intimated to the U. S. Government that if it took any action calculated to aid the Cubans, Germany would join Spain in making war upon us. It was hardly necessary for the State Department to take the trouble to deny such a report as that, but its officials did so as soon as it was published. It can be stated on high authority that no European Government has ever given this government the slightest hint that it wished to interfere with the course this government was pursuing or was intending to pursue towards Cuba. On the contrary, some of them have given this government assurances that they would keep their hands off in case we had any trouble with Spain. The publication of this report was unquestionably intended to work upon public sentiment in this country, and through that sentiment upon Congress and the President; but even if such a report were known to be true, it would have an effect just the opposite from that intended. Americans have been outwitted in diplomacy by European nations, but they have never been frightened by any of them or all of them, and what is more, they never will be.

Americans don't want war, but if they should have to fight Spain, they would prefer fighting her backed by Germany to fighting her alone. Spain is regarded as such a pigmy among the world's nations that there would be but little credit attached to thrashing her, but Spain assisted by any of the great European nations would make a foe worth looking at, if war cannot be honorably avoided.

There is the usual anti-inauguration talk in Washington about having more artistic stands erected along Pennsylvania avenue for those spectators who prefer to pay for the privilege of viewing the Inaugural Parade from a seat, but no body really expects to see anything different from the usual rough board stands which are always greeted by the spectators who buy that privilege from the inaugural committee, and who, by the way, lose money, much oftener than they make any. When inauguration day happens to be clear and fairly pleasant, the owners of the street stands reap a harvest; but if it is cold and stormy, the seats or the stands are almost empty. There is plenty of money contributed to the inaugural committee to pay for the erection of stands both artistic and comfortable, but it all has a string tied to it, and the contributors expect the committee to return it to them from the receipts for privileges and from the inauguration ball, and would be unto the committee which should fail to meet that expectation. As a matter of fact, these loans, for such the contributions are considered, are always returned and a surplus left that is usually donated to the poor by the inaugural committee.

In view of the beginning of the tariff hearings before the majority of the House Ways and Means Committee today, it is interesting to note the geographical makeup of that committee, which will frame the tariff bill to be passed at the extra session of the next Congress. Of the majority, New England has two members, Chairman Dingley, and Russell, of Conn.; the Middle States two, Payne, of N. Y., Dingley, of Pa.; the Middle West four, Hughes, of Ill., Grosvenor, of Ohio, Bellamy, of Iowa, and Steele, of Ind.; the Northwest two, Johnson, of N. Dak., and Tammey, of Minn.; the South one, Ryan, of Ky. The minority originally consisted of six, all from the South but owing to the deaths of Crisp, of Ga. and Tammey, of Mo., there are now two vacancies, which will almost certainly go to the South, but it really makes no difference whether they are filled or not except as a personal honor to the men chosen, as the minority of the committee will have nothing to do with the making of the new tariff bill.

Representative Curtis, of Kansas, would be enjoying his holiday much more than he is if he could persuade Secretary Francis to appoint the acting agents for the Wichita Reservation, which the people of the Southwest are anxious to have open to settlement. Mr. Curtis insists that there are no legal obstacles to opening the reservation, but Secretary Francis declines to act until the Department of Justice has passed upon some questions he submitted to it.

The same reason the Washington lobby is also the reason the passage of the Anti-Insurrection Funding bill which will be taken up by the House in January will be delayed upon four days later, than it was a week ago.

Highest of all in Leavening Strength.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

PLUNGED TO DEATH

Passenger Train Crashes Through a Bridge in Alabama. Cars Caught Fire and Few Passengers Escaped. BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—One of the most disastrous wrecks in the history of Southern railroads happened thirty-six miles South of here in which twenty-eight persons were killed outright and ten others injured, two of whom will die.

The ill-fated train was a Louisville & Nashville one, which runs from here to Blocton, a distance of forty miles.

The train left here at 5.30 in charge of Engineer Frank White and Conductor A. P. Connell.

Four miles north of Blocton, the engine, made up of an engine, baggage and two passenger coaches, crashed through a bridge 700 feet long and 120 feet high into the Cahaba River.

A rail had been removed from the track, and when the engine struck this 90 feet of the bridge gave way and went down with the train. Immediately the wreck took fire, the water being only about three feet deep, and before sufficient help could be secured the unfortunate passengers and trainmen, who were plunged under the debris, were burned to death in sight of others less unfortunate.

Some of the passengers, not so badly hurt, managed to crawl out and do all they could in assisting others, but of little avail.

The wreck occurred at what is known as the Cahaba Bridge, about fifty miles from Birmingham, between Guernsey and Blocton. The bridge is about 1,000 feet long and about 100 feet high. The train jumped the track and plunged off the trestle to the rocks below.

As to the number of passengers on board the reports conflict, but as near as can be ascertained twenty-three were killed.

Later reports place the number of passengers aboard the ill-fated train at from thirty to thirty-five, and only two escaped. It is said that seven were taken out alive but in a dying condition. The wreck caught fire, and many unfortunate victims were burned to death.

The scene at the wreck presented a most heart-rending and sickening spectacle. The cars were smashed to splinters on the rocks fully 100 feet below the track from which the train had been hurled.

The groans of the injured and lamentations of those who crowded around were pitiable in the extreme. Physicians from Birmingham and the adjacent vicinity lent assistance in endeavoring to alleviate the suffering of those who escaped with a spark of life.

It is known positively that twenty lives were lost and a more complete search of the charred train may reveal more. It is also most certain that the wreck was caused by fenders for the purpose of robbery.

Of those on the train nine escaped death but several of these will die of serious injuries. None of them can give a correct account of how the accident occurred.

The train was a local on the Birmingham Mineral, a branch of the Louisville and Nashville system.

In a Kentucky Feud.

MOUNT VERNON, Ky.—In a general fight six miles north of this place two men were killed and another was fatally shot. The dead are Armp Rowland and Jack Rigby.

The wounded man is Greely Lear. The fight began at a Christmas merry-making, and was fought out on the highway in Kentucky feudal fashion between opposing factions.

Six Killed, Eight Injured.

PUNICHTON, Ind.—The number of dead as a result of the explosion at the Maple mine is now definitely ascertained to be six. One man—Robert Poncey—has been rescued alive and all hope of his being rescued alive has been given up. All of their bodies have been recovered.

Eight miners were injured. State Mine Inspector Robert Fisher, of Brazil, and Assistant Inspector Opperson, together with three expert deep vein miners from Linton and Shelburn, have arrived in the city. The mining inspector has taken charge of the mine and will make a thorough investigation.

Several attempts were made to get the body of Robert Poncey, but the gas was too strong for the rescuers, and the work was given up.

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla has over and over again proved by its cures, when all other preparations failed, that it is the One True BLOOD Purifier.

BUSINESS LOCALS

CHANGERS minimize loss, kidneys and bowels. Nervousness, weakness or grip, etc.

STALL-FRU Red, Fresh Pork, sausage and the Pickery. E. W. Thompson, near Postoffice.

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECOMMENDS INCREASED APPROPRIATION.

Estimates State Expenses Next Two Years. Died Instead of Married. Nails For England. State Items.

RALPHIGH, N. C., December 28.—State Treasurer Worth gives in his biennial report, \$108,740 credit, to the sinking fund and estimates the State expenses for the following two years at \$821,850, per year, which is far below the past two years.

He recommends only one increased appropriation, that for the State Normal school which he figures at from \$17,500 to \$21,000.

The banks of the State are in a sound and prosperous condition.

The valuation in taxable property has fallen off \$5,500,000.

Mr. Devalat, of Leesburg, Tenn., died here yesterday. His body was carried home. He was to have been married tomorrow.

Ed. H. Lee, a prominent cotton man left today to sail next Saturday, for Liverpool.

William H. Andrews secretary of Legation under Minister Ransom, is home for the holidays.

Chicago Banker a Suicide.

CHICAGO—Otto Wasmansdorf, of the banking firm of Wasmansdorf & Heilmann, which failed here last Monday as a result of the collapse of the National Bank of Illinois, committed suicide at his home, 549 Cleveland avenue, by shooting himself in the right temple with a revolver.

The constant worry and mental anxiety for the past week consequent upon the failure is believed to have been the cause. He had scarcely slept during that time and although it is generally believed that the bank will discharge its obligations in full, Mr. Wasmansdorf saw that his standing in financial circles had been imperiled.

The banker was an emotional German, and his anxiety the past week was pitiable. Insomnia resulted from his troubles, and it is thought his mind may have been temporarily deranged.

He remained in the house all morning, after passing a sleepless night. Shortly before 11 o'clock he was romping with his little grandchild in the sitting room.

Mrs. Wasmansdorf left them there for a few minutes, but when she returned the child was alone. She inquired for her husband, and the little girl said he had gone upstairs.

The baby was sent after him, and discovered his body in a front bedroom, lying across the bed. Blood was oozing from an ugly wound in the right temple and a revolver was lying near his right hand. Nobody heard the report of the weapon.

The doctors were sent for, but all they were called upon to do was to pronounce the banker dead.

Otto Wasmansdorf was born in Flenrode, near Madgeburg, Prussia, November 9th, 1840. He came to America in 1863, and has been a resident of Chicago ever since.

THE COTTON MARKETS.

December 28. LIVERPOOL opened at a 1/4 point advance on futures, but the spot sales were only 4,000 bales.

New York opened at Thursday's closing prices, but there was considerable weakness and the close tonight is 6.98 for January delivery which is a net decline for the day of 16 points, and the lowest point yet reached this season.

New Haven market is quiet at 5 1/2 to 6 1/2.

Yours truly,

J. E. LATRAM.

THE MARKETS.

Chicago, December 28. OPENING. CLOSE. May Wheat..... 82 1/2 82 May Ribs..... 4.00 4.00

"At Christmas play, and make good cheer." For Christmas comes but once a year.

Christmas is drawing near, and fog are beginning to cast around for your presents. There are lots of things in town that are more ORNAMENTAL than USEFUL. We haven't many of that kind. They are all useful—something that your husband, brother or beau will appreciate. We have full lines of Gloves, dressed and undressed; Half Hose, Neckwear, Underwear, Handkerchiefs, Collars and Cuffs, Collar and Cuff Boxes, Traveling Sets, Slippers, Shoes, etc.

See us if you want something useful for your presents.

J. M. HOWARD.

McDaniel & Gaskill, 71 Broad St. NEW BERNE, N. C.

WHOLE SALE and RETAIL GROCERS.



THIS LITTLE GIRL is looking for the bottle of BRADHAM'S COUGH BALSAM. It is harmless and can readily be given to children with assurance of speedy relief for their COUGHS, SORE THROATS, and pulmonary troubles in general.

Columbia Bicycles are now ready. PRICE \$100!

Two Tandems with all the above improvements have also been added.

Hartford Bicycles include two grades of machines. Patrons 1 and 2 (for in '96 \$50) have been reduced to \$35 and a new machine listing at \$75 (Patrons No. 7 and 8) have been added.

Call and get Advance Catalogue.

WILL T. HILL, Fire Insurance Agent, Broad Street.

Mrs. Emma H. Powell, Fire Insurance Agent, Broad Street.

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Grain, HAY, and all kinds of Feed.

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Gun Powder.

MERCHANTS SAVE MONEY BY LEAVING YOUR ORDERS WITH ME.

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in an ill-fitting suit of clothes. You won't look the part. A Santa Claus that bags at the knees does not inspire respect.

Don't let your family be ashamed of its Santa Claus. Come today and let us measure you for a suit that will brace up your self-respect.

F. M. Chadwick. 101 Middle Street.

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Extracts by the Ounce, Perfume Atomizers, Toilet Mirrors, all kinds Sachet Powders, Complete line of Toilet Articles.

Davis' Pharmacy. Col Jordan's Cough Balsam 25c.

Christmas Stock.



Another Car Load of Fancy Rockers, Fairy Parlour Stools and Baby Carriages, and lots of other Furniture too numerous to mention, and will offer special bargains on the next 15 days so as to make room for our stock. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere.

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If you want to quit tobacco using easily and forever, be made well, strong, magnetic, full of new life and vigor, take No-To-Bac, the wonder-worker that makes weak men strong. Many gain ten pounds in ten days. Over 400,000 cured. Buy No-To-Bac from your own druggist, who will guarantee a cure. Booklet and sample mailed free. Ad. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

AT COST.

My entire stock of Boots & Shoes must be sold by Christmas. Come early and secure bargains.

PRATT'S SHOE STORE. 95 Middle Street.

Go to SAM'L COHN & SON'S

For Fine Stall Fed Beef, Lamb, Mutton, Fresh and Corned Pork, and Veal every day. Also live and dressed Turkeys. Will have plenty to supply the trade for Christmas. Finest Sausage in the city at 10c per pound.

88 Middle St. 88

COAL! COAL!

We sell only the very best quality of

White Ash Coal. EGG, STOVE AND CHESTNUT SIZES.

Orders left at the yard, rear of Hackburn & Willert's store, or at office, 53 South Front street, will receive prompt attention.

HOLLISTER & COX. Phone 31.

100 Bunches 100

Bananas.

75c. & \$1.00 a bunch.

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