

UNCLE SAM RUSHES SHIPS TO VENEZUELA

Minister Bowen Makes a Demand Upon President Castro for the Release of German and English Citizens Who Have Been Thrown Into Jail at Caracas.

PORTSMOUTH, Va., Dec. 10.—The battleship Texas and the cruiser Topeka sailed for Venezuela to-day upon orders from Washington. The Texas sailed with her battery repairs only half completed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The State Department has been advised that a "peaceful blockade" exists at La Guayra, which is the port of Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. The difference between this state and a state of war is not very strongly marked, except in the opportunity afforded by the peaceful blockade to effect a settlement without recourse to actual bloodshed. The situation is here regarded as critical.

Minister Bowen, at Caracas, has accepted the trust placed upon him to look after the interests of British and German citizens in Venezuela, and this has brought him into conflict with President Castro. He has informed the State Department that a number of these citizens were arrested yesterday in Caracas. Mr. Bowen at once addressed himself to President Castro to secure their release. He represented that he had been charged with the care of British and German subjects in Venezuela, but President Castro was unwilling at first to recognize his authority.

Finally the Minister convinced him that he was acting within his rights. President Castro consented with reluctance to release the principal prisoner. Mr. Bowen will insist upon the release of the remainder. Nothing in his reports to the State Department indicated the reason for the arrest of these foreigners except that they were German or British.

The latest report from Mr. Bowen to the department confirmed the press despatches relative to the seizure of the Venezuelan Navy in the port of Caracas yesterday. It is now expected that the next step will be the announcement of a formal blockade of that port by the British and German warships.

It is believed here that this will not stop the entry into the port of American ships, but that if they land their cargoes the British and Germans will insist upon collecting the regular Venezuelan rate of customs upon them. Of course, this will involve the seizure of the custom-house, and in turn it is expected that President Castro, unless he concludes to abandon further resistance, will issue a decree closing the port to entries and will insist upon collecting duties anew upon the same goods if they are passed into the interior of the country beyond La Guaira.

The United States Navy has at present no representative in La Guaira. The little gunboat Marietta is at Curacao, a few hours distant, in readiness to respond to any call.

GREAT BRITAIN SAYS THAT TIME FOR PEACE IS PAST.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—In the House of Commons Under Foreign Secretary Cranborne said the Government had no official information as yet of the seizure by the Venezuelans of two hundred British and German subjects or of the seizure of the Venezuelan warships by the fleets of Great Britain and Germany.

Lord Cranborne added that the British claims which necessitated coercion would be fully disclosed by papers to be laid before the House. They included a demand for compensation for interference with trading vessels, the imprisonment and ill-treatment of British subjects and the destruction of property. The Under Secretary asserted that the Government would follow precedent in the enforcement of analogous cases.

Replying to Mr. Bruce, Liberal, Lord Cranborne said the British Minister at Caracas had been instructed to wait twenty-four hours after the presentation of the ultimatum and, failing a reply, to proceed to La Guayra, where he was to wait another twenty-four hours on board a British ship. That period expired last night. Unless in the mean time a concession has been received it was necessary for His Majesty's Government to take forcible action. The Government has not yet been informed that such action had been taken.

The attitude of the Foreign Office here is one of relief, the arrest of the British subjects, it is held, indicating a provision against ill treatment and consequent further complications.

The Admiralty has received information of the seizure of the Venezuelan gunboat Bolivar at Port of Spain, Island of Trinidad.

VENEZUELA'S WARSHIPS SEIZED BY THE POWERS.

CARACAS, Venezuela, Dec. 10.—The combined English-German fleet has seized and towed out of the harbor of La Guayra, the Venezuelan fleet of four war vessels. The captured ships are the Totuma, Osun, Margarita and the Gen. Crespo. They were manned by 390 men.

The seizure of the fleet followed immediately upon the receipt of news by Admiral Douglass, commander of the combined British and German fleet, that all English and German residents in Caracas had been arrested.

FRENCH MINISTER HURRIES TO CARACAS.

PARIS, Dec. 10.—Owing to the gravity of the situation in Venezuela the Foreign Office has directed M. Wiener, the newly appointed French Minister to Venezuela, to start immediately for Caracas without waiting for the arrival of the Venezuelan Minister, Gen. Velasco, as at first intended. The Foreign Office has also selected Count De Peretti de Rocca as the French representative in the arbitration with Venezuela, and has ordered him to proceed to Caracas immediately with M. Wiener.

The arbitration covers the loss sustained by French citizens whose houses were burned, and whose plantations were destroyed during the revolution. The session of the arbitrators will be held at Caracas. The French officials will probably depart within two days. On their arrival at Caracas there will be a formal

resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

ITALIAN CRUISER REACHES LA GUAYRA.

LA GUAYRA, Venezuela, Dec. 10.—The Italian cruiser Giovanni Bausani has arrived at La Guayra.

TEXAS TO SAIL TO-DAY, PERHAPS TO VENEZUELA.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec. 10.—The battleship Texas, now at the Norfolk Navy-Yard, has been ordered to proceed to sea early to-day. It is understood that she will go to Cuba and possibly to Venezuela.

Just Twenty Hours' Journey. The Pennsylvania special provides a rapid and convenient means of getting to Chicago. It leaves New York every day.

MAY PUT OUT OLD FIREMEN

Members of the Department in Manhattan and the Bronx Must Undergo Immediate Inspection.

THE ORDER BRINGS DISMAY.

Men in the Ranks for Years and Those Who Have Met with Injuries in the Service Look on the Prospect with Gloom.

There was commotion in every fire house in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx to-day when orders were posted requiring all uniformed officers of the department under the rank of chief to report to the full Board of Medical Examiners for examination as to their physical fitness to remain in the fire fighting service.

This order affects the Deputy Chief, Battalion Chiefs, Captains and Lieutenants. The examination is to begin at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Dec. 12, and continue at stated intervals until every man under the requirements of the rule has been passed upon. It is expected that this general examination will result in the retirement of many old firemen who, despite their advanced years, consider themselves fully able to cope with the difficulties of their calling.

Already Tried in Brooklyn. In issuing this order Commissioner Sturgis is following out a plan he inaugurated in the Borough of Brooklyn last fall. As a result of the examination of the officers of the Department in that borough a great many veterans in the Department were retired. One of them died of a broken heart.

The examinations in this borough and the Bronx will not stop with officers. Orders were issued some time ago requiring all the ordinary firemen to report for examination before the full board. No time was set, although the order has not been rescinded. As soon as the examinations of the officers are concluded the men of the rank and file will take their turns before the board.

Old Men Must Go. It is apparently the policy of the administration to get new blood in the Fire and Police Departments by enforcing the provisions of the charter, which allows the retirement of policemen and firemen if they are pronounced physically unfit by the Board of Medical Examiners.

There are hundreds of men past what is commonly considered the prime of life in the Fire Department who believe that they are as strong and active as they have been in all their lives. Many of these are suffering from complaints, frequently the result of injuries received in the course of duty, that will cause them to retire on the reports of the doctors.

BIG NILE DAM OPENED.

Egypt's Great Water Reservoir Completed at Last.

ASSOUAN, Egypt, Dec. 10.—The great Nile reservoir and dam were opened to-day in the presence of the Khedive, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Lord Cromer, the British Agent and Consul General in Egypt, and Lady Cromer, the Ministers and many other distinguished persons.

The opening ceremony occurred in the afternoon when the Khedive turned a key which put the electric machinery in motion, whereupon the sluice-gates opened and a great volume of water rushed through them. The Duchess of Connaught then laid the last stone of the dam.

New Yorkers See Roosevelt. WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—A committee of the Merchants' Association of New York, consisting of George Fred. Beckwith, D. D. Page, S. C. Mead and Thomas H. Downing, called upon the President to-day to enlist his influence in securing the passage of the Hay amendment to the Bankruptcy act.

To Care a Cold in One Day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. Sec. 5.

Christmas in Many Phases—In Danger, Storm and Sacrifice. It's not The World's fault, and it isn't theirs, that Fire Chief Croker is one of the best advertised men in New York and that all men think of ex-Chief Thomas Byrnes when they deplore.

That's politics, maybe; it isn't the reason, anyhow, why the Chief and ex-Chief were asked to write of a fireman's and a policeman's Christmas story. They know the life.

Mr. Byrnes's is a tale of how Officer Donovan and a tenement-house family were made happy. It's true, and there are just such chances for folks to-day.

Chief Croker tells a sadder tale. His is the story of a Christmas fire in 1898 at the corner of Greenwich and Fulton streets, and how the firemen, fighting their way in, found there sleeping the sleep that wakes not a little boy, his arms filled with Christmas toys.

For these stories and ten others that you will enjoy see the Christmas World, out next Sunday. You had better order in advance from your newsdealer, as the supply of Christmas Worlds always gives out early.

POISON IN LEVY'S BEER.

Chemical Analysis Shows Cyanide of Potassium in the Liquid Which Old Man Drank.

BOY NOW CLOSELY GUARDED.

He Persists in His Bromo-Seltzer Story, and His Parents Suggest That He Is of Unsound Mind.

George F. Levy, the aged and wealthy surgical instrument maker of Williamsburg, who died after drinking beer from a bottle in which a white sediment was noticed, was killed by one of the most violent poisons known to chemists.

This sediment has been analyzed and found to be cyanide of potassium. This is the powder form of the poison. The liquid form, hydrocyanide of potassium, is commonly called prussic acid. All of the cyanides of potassium are used principally in color making, but occasionally the hydrocyanide, in greatly reduced or diluted form, is used in medicine.

Coroner Gernon notified the Brooklyn police this afternoon that the chemist employed by Coroner Williams to analyze the contents of the beer bottle had filed his report with him and that this report showed that there was "sufficient cyanide of potassium in the half-filled beer bottle to kill an army of men."

This settles the mystery as to the cause of death. There is no doubt now that Levy was killed by poison. The errand boy, Robert Westphal, has lied in saying that he put bromo seltzer in the bottle. Capt. Reynolds makes the open statement: "If the boy put anything in the beer, and he said he did, he put the poison in."

Suspicious Circumstances. The report showing that there was cyanide of potassium in the beer bottle is corroborative of the story of Mr. West, who performed the autopsy on Levy's body. He said at the time that he detected an odor of peach pits, which is characteristic of cyanide of potassium.

It is now recalled that young Westphal, in describing the beer which led to the death, said it smelled like peach pits. When asked how he knew the odor of peach pits he declared he had once smelt it in a grocery store. The police believe that this statement resulted from a confusion of terms; that potassium was the word the boy had in his mind.

Coroner Williams said this afternoon that the chemist who made the analysis of the contents of the beer bottle would also hand in a report to-morrow on the contents of the two bromo seltzer bottles, one of which Westphal said he got the bromo seltzer for Levy's beer. If there is a trace of poison in either he will at once proceed against the boy on the murder charge.

The analysis of the viscera taken from Levy will not be completed until Monday or Tuesday. From what is now known it is believed that this analysis will result in finding traces of cyanide of potassium.

The report of the analysis of the beer caused the Brooklyn police to deny any one the privilege of talking with the boy.

Various persons among them several reporters, had been given permission by Capt. Reynolds to see Westphal, but before they could reach the Children's Society home, where the boy is detained as a prisoner, the permits were rescinded.

Parents Say Boy is Crazy. The parents of Westphal believe now that he is mentally unbalanced. When three years old, Robert was hit in the middle of the forehead with a hatchet. His father was repairing a fence. The child ran to kiss him and the hatchet struck him in the head, inflicting a severe wound.

This may account for Robert's inclination to lie about everything, they say. He cannot seem to tell the truth about the most trivial incidents in his life.

The boy still adheres to his story that he put three crystals of what he thought was bromo seltzer in the glass from which Levy drank the beer that killed him, and that he did not put any in the bottle that now has an eighth of an inch of sediment in the bottom.

That he is lying in this statement every one to whom he has told the story is convinced.

Capt. Reynolds, chief of the Brooklyn Detectives Bureau, expressed the belief that the boy will make a full confession of the whole affair, if he can stick to the truth long enough.

Westphal will come up for examination to-morrow.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Thursday, for New York City and vicinity: Rain to-night; temperature above freezing; Thursday partly cloudy; cooler Thursday evening or night; fresh to brisk southwest winds, shifting to west and northwest.

The Captain of Industry. Save the Pennsylvania Special because it takes time to Chicago in twenty hours. Every traveler gains by its use.

SHOCK KILLS A MINISTER.

Rev. George Leonard Lose Electrocuted in Dormitory at Drew Seminary in Morristown, N. J.

HANDS TOUCHED LIVE WIRE.

Young and Popular Preacher Took Hold of Electric Lamp Connections to Which Were Imperfectly Insulated.

Rev. George Leonard Lose, a student in Drew Seminary, Morristown, N. J., was electrocuted in his room in Hoyt Browne dormitory, attached to that institution, last night. The shock, which came primarily from an incandescent electric light wire, killed him instantly.

It was a peculiar and probably unprecedented accident. Dr. Lose, who was twenty-six years of age, was sitting in the dormitory with his feet on a radiator for warmth. He was reading, leaning back in his chair. So far as is known, there is no direct electric current connection with the radiator.

The light from an incandescent lamp swinging above his head did not start him. He leaned back to change the position of the light, keeping his feet, which were covered with light slippers, on the radiator.

Just above the bulb there was a portion of the wire exposed. His hand came in contact with the little patch of exposed wire and he was hurled to the floor.

Mr. Lose was alone in his room. The first suspicion that anything had happened was when students in adjoining rooms smelled what seemed to be the odor of burning flesh. An investigation was at once made, and on going to the room of Mr. Lose he was found dead on the floor.

He had apparently taken hold of the electric wire with both hands, as they were both frightfully burned, and were also his feet, which had rested on the radiator.

It is thought that Mr. Lose had been dead about fifteen minutes when his body was discovered. The supposition is that his feet were connected with a current that in some unexplained way ran to the iron-work of the radiator, and that when he touched the wire he completed a circuit, as they had been hopelessly beaten for many hours.

The race itself was forgotten for a time this morning in the mix-up between Breton and Darragon, the last of the Frenchmen in the long grind. Several times at the side of the track and in the dressing room the two team mates came to blows and prompt work

She had no money and no friends there, she said, but refused to tell who her parents are or the names of her relatives.

Judge Murphy sent her to the County Jail, arguing that confinement there for a few hours might frighten her into disclosing something about herself.

"Black and White" Scotch Whisky suits the most fastidious. It is all right.

COAST STORM IS COMING.

NATIONAL WEATHER BUREAU SENDS OUT A WARNING.

The local Weather Bureau has received the following from Washington: "Warnings for brisk to high south-west winds for this afternoon and to-night are ordered along the coast from Sandy Hook to Eastport, Me."

BIG AFTERNOON CROWD AT SIX-DAY CYCLE RACE.

At 5 o'clock the crowd at the six-day cycle race had increased to 6,000. The seven leading teams took turns at sprinting. McFarland raised considerable enthusiasm by spread-eagling his field for a short time, but the pace was too hot and he was finally caught by the others.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD'S GENERAL MANAGER RESIGNS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10.—J. B. Hutchinson, General Manager of the Pennsylvania Railroad, resigned to-day. His resignation was accepted and will take effect Jan. 1.

RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS.

Fourth Race—Golden Rule 1, Worthington 2, Automus 3.
Fifth Race—Leviathan 1, Scotch Plaid 2, Cogswell 3.

NINE TEAMS LEFT IN RACE.

Six Pairs of American Cyclists Still Tied for Lead in Six-Day Bicycle Grind at Madison Square Garden

KRAMER BREAKS A RECORD.

Champion Sprinter Rides a Half Mile Unpaced, Flying Start, in 54 1-5 Seconds, Lowering All Marks.

SCORE AT 5 O'CLOCK.

McFarland and Maya	1201 0
Sinson and Moran	1201 0
John and Menus Bedell	1201 0
NewKirk and Jacobson	1201 0
Butler and Turville	1201 0
Leander and Floyd Krebs	1201 0
Barclay and Frank Krebs	1200 9
Keegan and Petersen	1200 9
Galvin and Root	1200 9
Best previous record is 1271 miles 5 aps.	

Frank L. Kramer broke the world's unpaced half-mile record at Madison Square Garden this afternoon, covering the distance in 54 1-5 seconds. The old record was 51 3-5 seconds.

With almost half the journey done, nine teams now only are left in the six-day race at Madison Square Garden, and six of them are tied for first place. The other three are just one lap behind the leaders.

The withdrawal of the two last foreign teams cut the list of riders down and left all the prizes safe in the hands of the Americans. Breton and Darragon's finish came unexpectedly, but was replete with sensational riding, and after the leaders had gained a lap on the latter he sulked and presented them with several more. Heiler and Doeringer's withdrawal was no surprise, as they had been hopelessly beaten for many hours.

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YOUNG GIRL SENT TO JAIL.

Drastic Method of Jersey Judge to Find Out Who She Is.

A well-dressed, prepossessing girl, who said she was Lulu Snyder, nineteen years old, of Hillsdale, N. J., was found wandering about the streets of Jersey City to-day and taken to the Second Criminal Court.

She had no money and no friends there, she said, but refused to tell who her parents are or the names of her relatives.

Judge Murphy sent her to the County Jail, arguing that confinement there for a few hours might frighten her into disclosing something about herself.

QUICK BLAZE EXCITES BIG APARTMENT-HOUSE.

Three Alarm Calls from the Antoinette at Fifty-Eighth Street and Madison Avenue—One Woman Is Overcome.

The fire in the Antoinette, which is a new building only partially occupied, had its origin in the boiler-room in the basement. The flames reached the woodwork of the staterooms and the first intimation the engineer and janitor had of it was a volume of stifling smoke in the cellar.

This smoke found vent through the windows of the basement and up the elevator and dumbwaiter shafts to the apartments above. The engineer ran the elevator half up the height of the building and then ran up from floor to floor alarming the tenants. In the mean time the janitor went out and turned in an alarm.

When the first engines arrived there was every indication that the building would be consumed. Smoke was issuing from the windows up to the fifth floor by this time, and many of the tenants were crouched on the fire escapes and balconies, afraid to start for the street.

Two other alarms were sent in, calling out all the fire apparatus on the upper East Side.

FIREMEN QUICKLY AT WORK.

A squad of firemen went to work at the flames in the cellar, while others swarmed up the stairways through the smoke, and assisted tenants to safety. Fortunately the blaze was easy to get at, and the fire itself did not extend above the ground floor.

Mrs. Edward L. Lithauer, who had apartments on the seventh floor, started to escape by way of the hall and stairways, but was forced back by the smoke. She then made her way to a balcony opening from the windows of her suite and appeared to be about to jump, when she was seen to fall back.

Firemen were despatched to her aid from the street. They found her overcome by smoke on the floor of the balcony and carried her down to the street and into the apartment-house next door, where she was revived.

Mrs. Grace Hall, who lives on the sixth floor, was out shopping in the neighborhood at the time of the fire. She had left her baby in her apartments with a nurse. News of the fire came to her in exaggerated form and she ran shrieking from Fifth avenue and Fifty-ninth street to her home. It was all the firemen could do to restrain her from rushing into the building, as she believed her baby was in danger. The nurse and the child were among the first to be rescued and were safe in the house next door when the mother arrived.

When the fire looked to be probably beyond control Policeman Quinlan, of the East Fifty-first street station, went to the roof of the building at No. 47 East Fifty-eighth street, and from there made his way to the roof of the Antoinette. He went through the house from floor to floor and assisted in many rescues.

WOMEN JUMP FOR THEIR LIVES AT APARTMENT FIRE.

Blaze on West Sixty-fifth Street Starts at No. 18 and Soon Reaches No. 16—Women Take Desperate Chances in Their Mad Efforts to Reach Safety.

Blaze Raged in a Big Apartment-House at Fifty-eighth Street and Madison Avenue at the Same Time—All Fire Apparatus South of One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Busy at the Two Fires.

Two simultaneous fires, one on the east and the other on the west side, called out the entire Fire Department south of One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street this afternoon. Three alarms were turned in in each case. There were thirty engines, thirty hose carts and eight hook and ladder companies at the west side fire and almost as many at the other.

The west side fire was in two apartment houses, Nos. 16 and 18 West Sixty-fifth street, just off Central Park West. Two women jumped and were badly hurt. One fireman was injured. Both buildings were practically destroyed.

The east side fire was in The Antoinette, a double apartment-house just completed at Madison avenue and Fifty-eighth street. One woman was overcome by smoke, but the damage was comparatively small.

WOMEN MAKE DESPERATE JUMPS.

Fire started in the apartment-house at No. 16 West Sixty-fifth street at 4 o'clock this afternoon and spread so rapidly that No. 14 was shortly ablaze also. I a remarkably short space of time both buildings were ablaze from top to bottom.

Two women in No. 16 were obliged to jump for their lives. One, a Miss Hackett, was badly injured. She was sent to Roosevelt Hospital. The other woman, whose name has not been learned, was rendered unconscious by her injuries. She was also taken to the hospital.

A fireman who was trying to go up the outside of the building to rescue Miss Hackett before she jumped was knocked from his ladder by a burst of flame from one of the windows and fell to the street. He was badly hurt and was taken to Roosevelt Hospital.

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