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The Evening Star.

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To reach all the people in Washington all the time advertise in The Star.

ENGLAND CALLS HALT

To Stop Aggressive Action Against Venezuela.

GERMANY OBDURATE

NOT DISPOSED TO CONSIDER ARBITRATION.

This Government Has Approved Minister Bowen's Proposal to Effect Settlement.

LONDON, December 15.—The Associated Press has reason to believe that orders will be or already have been sent to the British commander in Venezuelan waters to take no further aggressive action at present pending a decision being arrived at on the proposal for arbitration.

An expression of a desire for a peaceful settlement of the difficulties has been received in London from the Venezuelan government.

This came in the form of a proposal through the United States government to submit the claims of British and German subjects to arbitration, which Lord Lansdowne announced later in the day in the house of lords, is "now under consideration by the British government."

Lord Lansdowne added: "We are greatly indebted to the good offices of the United States minister at Caracas."

It was learned this evening that the proposals now before the British government are the original proposals forwarded by Minister Bowen, but which now have received a strong support from the United States government.

The under foreign secretary, Lord Cranborne, denied in the house of commons today that the British commander was responsible for the sinking of the Venezuelan ships.

Germans Sank the Ships.

The under secretary said his majesty's government had been informed that the German commodore found it necessary to sink two ships, but Great Britain was not responsible for this.

Mr. Schwann, advanced liberal, then moved an adjournment of the house to discuss Venezuelan matters. The motion will be discussed at 7 o'clock this evening.

A parliamentary paper giving the correspondence relating to Venezuelan affairs was issued this afternoon. It begins with a memorandum which, after recounting the existing causes of complaint against Venezuela, including the seizures of British ships and the protestation against the Venezuelan consul at Trinidad, exacting improper fees for collecting customs dues for Venezuela in Trinidad, of which "no notice was taken by Venezuela," says: "Besides these specific outrages and grounds for complaint, there are causes in which British subjects and companies have large claims against Venezuela.

Case of the Ban Righ.

"The Venezuelan government declined to accept the explanations and assurances of his majesty's government in regard to the Ban Righ as in any way modifying the situation. As a result the position of his majesty's legation at Caracas is rendered quite impracticable for diplomatic purposes, as all representations, protests and remonstrances now remain disregarded and unacknowledged."

The correspondence which dates to December 2, shows that so early as July 23 Germany tentatively mentioned the Venezuelan difficulties, and Foreign Secretary Lansdowne replied that he would be quite ready to confer with the view of joint action. On August 8 Lord Lansdowne warned the admiralty to prepare for putting pressure on Venezuela, adding: "The German ambassador, Count Wolff-Metternich, has suggested that the two powers concerned should partake in a joint naval demonstration."

On August 1 the British minister, Mr. Haggard, notified Lord Lansdowne that he had personally presented to the acting foreign minister a note recording his formal protest against the "intolerable conduct of the Venezuelan government," stating that unless prompt compensation was paid to the injured persons he would take the necessary steps to exact reparation.

Mr. Haggard concludes: "The minister accepted the note quietly. His final remark was that they were 'used to these communications.' I said that might be the case, but not from England."

August 4 Mr. Haggard informed Lord Lansdowne that the Venezuelan foreign minister had definitely stated that "until the Ban Righ matter is settled satisfactorily to the interests of both nations the Venezuelan government cannot entertain any question on a different subject."

Proposal of Admiral Douglas.

On September 27 Vice Admiral Douglas suggested to the admiralty that it would be necessary in order to bring effective pressure on Venezuela to blockade the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo toward the end of November and seize all Venezuelan gunboats "until the demands are complied with."

Lord Lansdowne, under date of October 22, says the blockade is "open to some objection," but he indorses the seizure of the vessels.

In the next communication, dated November 11, Lord Lansdowne notified Charge d'Affaires Buchanan at Berlin that Germany is prepared to join Great Britain in a final warning, and that it had been agreed that the first step should be the seizure of Venezuelan vessels.

"As to the joint execution of measures of coercion," says Lord Lansdowne, "the German government recognized that there was a sharp distinction in the character of the British and German claims, but that nevertheless the two claims ought to stand or fall together and that we ought to exclude the possibility of a settlement between Venezuela and one of the two powers without an equally satisfactory settlement with the other."

In a further communication to Mr. Buchanan, dated November 17, Lord Lansdowne said that Germany concurred in the view that any joint action should be maintained until the demands of both governments are satisfied.

Appeal to British Fairness.

Mr. Haggard on November 17 told Lord Lansdowne that the Venezuelan government had reiterated that it considered the Ban Righ question and the facilities afforded the revolutionaries by the authorities at Trinadad to be all important, and would be much gratified if Great Britain would express some desire for arriving at an understanding on the subject, adding that Venezuela "therefore appeals to the sense of fairness of the British government."

After settling with Germany the mode of procedure and the instructions to be sent to the naval commanders Lord Lansdowne on November 27 informed Mr. Haggard thereof, and gave instructions as to his course regarding the presentation of the ultimatum and the ministers' departure from Caracas, which have been since followed out.

The foreign office, on November 28, asking the admiralty to forward specific instructions to vice Admiral Douglas, adds: "Should the British legation be withdrawn from Caracas, it is probable that British interests in Venezuela will be placed in charge of the United States minister."

The last communication, dated December 2, is from Lord Lansdowne to Mr. Haggard. It instructs him regarding the terms of the ultimatum, which are already known.

MAY ASK CASTRO TO RESIGN.

Movement Inaugurated Among Prominent Men in Caracas.

CARACAS, Venezuela, December 15.—Inaction reigns in government circles here. The officials do not know what to do and are depending entirely upon the United States to assist them.

A movement is on foot here, headed by prominent doctors and lawyers, to request President Castro to resign, and to ask Vice President Ramon Ayala to assume the presidency and form a cabinet without party tendencies. It is also proposed to summon congress to appoint a temporary president and arrange the questions in dispute in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

General Hernandez, "El Mocho," who has just been released from prison at Maracaibo, is expected at Caracas tomorrow. His partisans are very active and further trouble is apprehended.

The Venezuelan government announces that Great Britain has reopened the navigation of the Orinoco river. Two warships will patrol the mouths of the river and the river itself. This measure applies only to foreign ships. Vessels flying the Venezuelan flag are excluded.

The patriotic parade here yesterday passed off without any extraordinary incidents.

President Castro, during the day, visited the tomb of Bolivar.

The government reports that the German cruiser Panther is going to Maracaibo to destroy the forts there.

Bowen to Act for Holland.

Minister Bowen, at the request of the Dutch minister, Dr. Van Leyden, who is sick at Curacao, has taken charge of Dutch interests here.

The leading merchants of La Guaira arrived last night, abandoning the port, owing to fear that it will be shelled.

The German cruiser Vineta is going to visit Marguerita, an island in the Caribbean sea belonging to Venezuela, thirty miles north of Cumana.

At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon four loud explosions alarmed the city of Porto Cabello. On investigation it was found that British marines had blown up the subterranean prison cells of Castle Libertador with dynamite. They also burned all the wooden buildings surrounding the castle and carried away everything that could be transported.

After the bombardment of the forts at Porto Cabello and the landing of marines on the island where the castle is situated, the forces of the powers acted just as though they were at home, causing great indignation among the Venezuelans. When everything had been destroyed the marines re-embarked.

The Venezuelan government warship Miranda escaped the vigilance of the German cruisers Falke and Panther, which were searching for her, and arrived at Maracaibo yesterday.

GERMANY IS OBDURATE.

Not Disposed to Heed Proposition for Arbitration.

BERLIN, December 15.—In official quarters here it is said that the Venezuelan vessels sunk off La Guaira were old and worthless revenue cutters and unfit to go to sea, and that the other ships captured have been sent to a certain West Indian port to be refitted for use during the blockade. The destruction of the Venezuela craft, it is added, was necessary in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Venezuelans, as the German vessels had to leave La Guaira.

Venezuela's proposition, through Minister Bowen, to submit the questions in dispute to arbitration, has now been received here. The foreign office says this will not delay the measures previously decided upon by Germany and Great Britain. The officials here do not indicate what will be the final decision in the arbitration proposition, but it was apparently made too late to affect the general situation.

Lieut. Commander Tuerk, first officer of the German cruiser Gazelle, has taken command of the captured Venezuelan gunboat Restaurador, which is now flying the German flag. So soon as the Restaurador has completed her equipment at Port of Spain, Island of Trinidad, she will be utilized in the German operations against Venezuela.

Venezuela's Answer to Allies.

The following is the Venezuelan answer to the Anglo-German ultimatum:

"The commodores of the Charybdis and the Mineta:

"We have the honor to reply to your message through a commission composed of the American, Italian and Dominican consuls. The authorities at this port did not countenance the lowering of the British flag on the steamship Topaze, which act was perpetrated only by the populace.

"On account of the events at La Guaira, imprisonments were made on superior orders, and those imprisoned were released subsequently on superior orders. The Germans and English here enjoy full guarantees."

Here follow the signatures of the authorities.

This answer was delivered to the Italian consult at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and he was making signals when the bombardment began. A German resident and two servants at San Estoban, three miles from Puerto Cabello, were killed in the shelling of the fort.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Rev. Henry Beets of Grand Rapids, Mich., delivered the invocation in the House of Representatives today.

This was District of Columbia day, but before the regular order was demanded Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriation committee, called up the urgent deficiency apropriation bill, reported on Saturday.

It carried about $1,400,000, the principal items being $500,000 for stamping out the foot and mouth disease among live stock in New England, and the same amount to cover deficiencies in the rural free delivery service.

After some discussion the bill was passed.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of District business. The first bill was a measure to provide for a union station in this city.

AGREES TO THE DATE.

Senate Votes to Adjourn on the 20th Instant.

When the Senate met today, the House resolution providing for the usual holiday recess from December 20 to January 5, was agreed to without division.

Mr. Bate (Tenn.) submitted the report of the minority on the omnibus bill, which was read. It favors the omnibus bill.

The Senate then began consideration of the bill to promote the efficiency of the militia. Mr. Pettus (Ala.) submitted an amendment striking out section 24 of the bill providing for a reserve force of trained men, on the ground that it was a direct infringement of the authority given to the states by the Constitution.

A brief debate followed, which was participated in by Messrs. Foraker, Daniel, Hale, Spooner, Pettus, Proctor and Allison, and at 2 o'clock the bill was displaced by the omnibus statehood bill.

By unanimous consent, discussion of the militia bill was continued for thirty minutes.

Virginia Postmasters Appointed.

The following Virginia fourth-class postmasters were appointed today:

Glendower, Tipton T. Omohundra, jr.; Hardware, Eugenia E. White; Lillian, J. M. Omahundro.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Senator Pritchard Again a Caller Today.

HIS TALK WITH QUAY

HE WOULD CUT REPRESENTATION IN THE CONVENTION.

Indianians Pushing for Representation on the Board of Appraisers—Some of Today's Callers.

Senator Pritchard called on the President today relative to several North Carolina places. He recommended the nomination of W. B. Steele as postmaster at High Point, N. C., to fill a vacancy caused by the death of the postmaster, and laid before the President the name of Daniel W. Patrick as collector of customs at Newberne, N. C., to succeed Mayer Hahn, the incumbent. Senator Pritchard did not bring up the case of Postmaster Vick, at Wilson, N. C., which is still pending. Senator Pritchard went from the White House to a hospital to undergo an operation, and it is probable that he will not be able to return to his seat in the Senate until after the Christmas holidays. It is regarded as probable that both of the names put before the President by the senator today will be sent to the Senate by the President. Mayer Hahn would like to succeed himself as collector at Newberne, but Mr. Patrick, who has been named for the place, is a man of such high standing that no successful fight could be made on him, it is said.

Senator Pritchard was standing at the White House door when Senator Quay of Pennsylvania walked out.

"Well, how are the 'lily whites?'" asked the Pennsylvania senator.

"In splendid shape," answered the North Carolina senator.

"What do you think now about representation in the next national convention?" asked Senator Quay.

"Well, I am going to support any effort to reduce the representation of the southern states in the national conventions according to the vote polled by them," said Senator Pritchard. "I believe that is the only fair method, and I am for it. Let the representation be according to the republican vote polled."

"I am with you," said Senator Quay, "and I am glad you have taken that position at last."

The statement of Senator Pritchard was somewhat of a surprise. Heretofore southern republicans have unanimously opposed the reduction of their representation in convention, and the change of sentiment by so influential a republican of the south will cause consternation in the ranks of the party in that section.

"I do not favor cutting down the representation of the south in Congress," said Senator Pritchard, "as I do not believe Congress has the right to do that under the Constitution."

Invited to Visit Virginia.

Senator Daniel today presented to the President Mr. Julius D. Dreher, president of Roanoke College, Salem, Va. The college will celebrate its semi-centennial when the annual commencement exercises are held, June 9-11, and Mr. Dreher desired to ask the President to honor the institution with his presence. The President expressed himself as having many engagements early next summer when the exercises will be held, and doubted his ability to be present, but said he would take the invitation under consideration.

"I remember having invited the President to my college under different circumstances from these," said Mr. Dreher. "It was when he was assistant secretary of the navy that I asked him to attend the commencement exercises at Roanoke College. I remember his reply well. He said: 'It will be impossible for me to go. The outlook is that there will be war with Spain and if war is declared I am going to the front as quickly as I can get there.' I asked him why he preferred going to the front to remaining where he was. 'It always pays to be a man,' was his quick answer, and I will never forget it."

The New York Appraisership.

Senator Beveridge called on the President to present James P. Goodrich, chairman of the republican state committee of Indiana. Mr. Goodrich desired to add to the efforts of other Indiana men to secure the position on the board of appraisers in New York for Charles S. Hernley, former republican state chairman of Indiana.

Senator Spooner presented Prof. Paul S. Reinsch of the University of Wisconsin, author of a book on oriental politics.

Senators Quay and Penrose presented to the President a delegation of Delaware Indians who wanted to lay before the President a petition regarding their lands.

General Leonard Wood called to present a friend.

North Dakota Post Offices.

Representative Marshall of North Dakota called on the President in reference to two post offices in his state—Fargo and Pork River. George McEwan, candidate for postmaster at the latter place, and backed by the North Dakota delegation, was with Mr. Marshall, and was introduced to the President. The postmaster at Pork river is R. L. Loomis, and he wants to succeed himself. The North Dakota delegation has recommended C. E. Eddy as postmaster at Fargo, and Mr. Marshall urged that the nomination be made. Senator McCumber recommended Mr. Eddy a few days ago.

Commissioner West had a short conference with the President about a District matter.

Cadetship at Annapolis.

Representative Bingham of Pennsylvania introduced Richard Sommers Galloway, a son of Lieutenant Galloway, United States navy, retired, of this city. General Bingham asked that the young man be appointed as a cadet in the Naval Academy.

Senator Gallinger called with Representative Currier, a new member of the House from New Hampshire.

Postmaster General Payne called with President Warren of the Merchants' Association of Milwaukee.

There were a large number of members of Congress to call upon the President during the day, among them being Senator Dolliver, who will leave in a few days for the west; Representative Scott of Kansas and friends, Representative Knapp of New York and friends, Representative Foster of Vermont and friends, Representative McRae of Arkansas.

In the Interest of Marksmanship.

Colonel Sanger, assistant secretary of war, Saturday afternoon presented to the President Gen. Bird W. Spencer of New Jersey, president; J. A. Haskell, chairman of the committee on promotion of rifle practice; Gen. E. J. Dimmick and Capt. H. C. Aspinwall, all of the National Rifle Association. They desired to enlist the interest of the President in promoting systematic rifle practice among the members of the National Guard throughout the country. President Roosevelt entered heartily into the plan and promised them all possible aid in carrying the scheme into effect.

MAY MAKE AN ISSUE

If American Ships for Venezuela Are Stopped.

NOTICE TO GERMANY

TOWN OF PUERTO CABELLO WAS NOT BOMBARDED.

Minister Bowen Reports That Fire Was at the Fortifications — Hope of Averting Hostile Declaration.

Minister Bowen has confirmed the press reports to the effect that the guns of the allied fleet which bombarded Puerto Cabello were directed entirely at the fortifications and not at the town.

Regrettable as the affair was, this statement relieves it of the first suspicion that it constituted a violation of international law, in the fact that twenty-four hours' notice was not served of the bombardment. The requirement as to notice applies to unfortified towns or fortified towns where the fire must be directed upon the inhabitants, and it is said that was not the case at Puerto Cabello, so that while the officials here regret that the firing took place, they have as yet no cause to protest.

United States May Take Action.

But it is now probable that the United States will break its attitude of inactivity in the event that an attempt is made to enforce the "peaceful blockade" toward an American ship. When the allies were considering ways and means of bringing Venezuela to terms and a blockade of that character had been decided upon, the German government informed the United States that when the blockade was established it would turn back all shipping, though no effort would be made to seize the ships. The United States government made no response to this statement at the time (last year), not feeling called upon to do so before the presentation of an actual case. But now that the blockade is sought to be established, Secretary Hay has informed the German government that American ships should not be interfered with in their trading, except the inhibition applies to all shipping; and, further, the note intimates a disapproval of any stoppage at all.

The Blockade at Crete.

In so doing the State Department is perfectly consistent, for during the effort of the powers to establish a "peaceful blockade" of Crete in 1896 Secretary Sherman formally recorded a refusal to be bound by it. It happened that no American ship had occasion to enter a Cretan port during the brief period of time the blockade was in force, so the issue was not made then, but in the present case, with regular lines of American steamers entering Venezuelan ports at short intervals, a test case must soon follow. Of course, it is within the legal right of the allies to stop these ships, but probably this can be accomplished without protest on our part only after a formal declaration of war.

Hope of Averting War.

The hope is growing here that such a declaration can after all be avoided owing to the energy with which Mr. Bowen has acted. The proposal of President Castro to the allied powers for a peaceful settlement was suggested by Mr. Bowen, and it came to the State Department through his hands. It has been forwarded to London and Berlin through the embassies here, and as both Great Britain and Germany have heretofore professed a desire to settle the issues peaceably, it is hoped that they will avail of this opportunity. The proposal did not mention the method of arbitration, nor the limitations, and the point of doubt which may prevent the acceptance of the scheme is believed to be Castro's unwillingness to bind himself in advance to the recognition of the principle of liability; he would leave the arbitrators to determine whether or not he is liable at all.

Reason for Delay.

It has developed that the reason for the delay in the consideration of President Castro's proposal to arbitrate the dispute with Great Britain and Germany was the absence from London of Lord Lansdowne, the British minister for foreign affairs. That official spends Saturday and Sunday of each week almost invariably at his country place and does not allow any business to interfere with his rest. He is not due in London until this afternoon, and no one else is competent to deal with the proposition.

It appears that the arbitration proposition had more than a perfunctory indorsement by the United States government. Mr. Bowen having asked permission to endeavor to settle the matter by an arbitration, Secretary Hay not only promptly accorded the permission, but went to the length of himself dispatching the proposal, which up to that point had been rather vague and informal, to the British and Germany governments. Had the Secretary not felt a warm interest in the matter it is probable that he would have allowed Mr. Bowen to forward the application in his own way, which, of course, would not have given it the same weight.

Italy Sounding the Government.

Today the Italian ambassador, Signor Mayor des Planches, called at the State Department to take soundings as to the attitude of this government in the event that the Italian government pressed for a settlement of its claims against Venezuela. It appears that the Italian desires are not by any means so comprehensive or the demands so stiff as in the case of Great Britain or Germany, but the details could not be learned.

Southern Republics Anxious.

The south and central diplomatic representatives here are in a state of anxiety that finds expression in frequent calls at the State Department for information. No less than six ministers were among Secretary Hay's visitors this morning, although this was not diplomatic reception day. It is plain that very general sympathy for Venezuela exists among the Latin-Americans.

Conference at the White House.

Secretary Hay was in conference at the White House for a short time with the President, but it was stated that little attention was given to Venezuela.

Secretary Hay said when he went away that there was nothing to say. Later in the day Senator Cullom, who is chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Senate, and Representative Hitt, who is the head of a similar committee in the House, called on the President. This gave rise to an old-time war rumor—that an important conference had been held. Representative Cannon was likewise mentioned as a participant in the conference by reason of a call he made, but the facts dispelled such stories. No two of the men mentioned were with the President at the same time. Secretary Hay called before any of the others and went away before they reached the White House.

Senator Cullom had with him Mr. Huntington Wilson, first secretary of the legation of the United States at Tokio, and Representative Hitt had a young man with him whom he desired to present to the President. Mr. Wilson is on leave of absence from Japan, but may return before the expiration of his leave, if it is found that Mr. Griscom, the new minister to Japan, cannot reach his post for some time. Mr. Wilson has been first secretary at Tokio for six years.

Secretary Root had a brief conference with the President, and his name was mixed during the day with the alleged White House conference. He was not with the President at the same time as Secretary Hay. Later in the day Secretaries Hay and Root, it is reported, discussed Venezuelan affairs at the State Department.

Representative Cannon came out without a cirgar in his mouth. He was asked about this forgetfulness on his part. "Well, I do feel like smoking," said the Illinois representative, and he dived into his pockets for a cigar. "I have been smoking about a dozen cigars a day for forty years," he continued, "and I don't see that it has done me any harm up to this time."

Don't Like the Looks of Things.

Senators and representatives calling on the President absolutely refused to discuss the Venezuelan affair for publication, but privately many of them said they did not like the looks of the whole affair, and gravely intimated that Uncle Sam might yet have to interfere. One prominent senator said to a Star reporter today: "Are those two big countries to be allowed to do as they please in Venezuela? Is the Monroe doctrine to be violated, even indirectly." Senator Cullom himself, as prudent and cautious as he is, does not exactly feel that his sympathies will permit him to think England and Germany are acting just exactly right, but he is in such a position that he cannot give open expression to his views.

A Rumor at the Capitol.

Late this afternoon the rumor was current at the Capitol that the United States government had addressed notes to the British, German and Venezuelan governments requesting information as to the latest moves in the war game and that the information would be laid before Congress when received.

The statement was freely made that unless the State Department furnishes Congress with the status of affairs it will be impossible to keep down resolutions of inquiry owing to the general restlessness of men of both parties in Congress.

THREE LIVES LOST IN FIRE.

New York Tenement Burns With Disastrous Results.

NEW YORK, December 15.—Three lives were lost in a tenement house fire in 1st avenue near 126th street today. The dead:

Mrs. Mary Bond, thirty-two years old.
Raymond Bond, seven years old.
Rose Bond, five years old.

Edward Bond, thirty-five years old, was severely burned about the hands and face while trying to save his family, and Helen Bond, two years old, was also severely burned about the hands and face.

The loss on the building and contents was $8,000.

The Bonds lived on the top floor of the tenement, which was five stories high. There were sixteen families in the house, but all except the Bonds got out safely.

TO GET BOTH ROUTES.

Colombia Said to Meditate Attack on Nicaragua.

Whatever doubt existed in Nicaragua as to the intention of Colombia to carry out her threat to attack her as soon as her own revolutionary movement had been quelled, has been removed by the receipt of advices of a semi-official character here that the Colombian army officers at Panama and Colon are steadily, but very quietly, making ready for an invasion of Nicaragua. It is stated, further, that there is a double reason for the attack. In the first place, Colombia wishes to take forcible possession of the Mosquito strip, which would give her control of both routes available for an isthmian canal, and so enable her to make her own terms, and, in the second place, she must find congenial employment for the Colombian soldiers, who, having been fighting rebels for four years, cannot be easily turned to ways of peace, and would probably start a new revolution if not allowed an outlet for their energies outside of Colombia. The advices are to the effect that the officials in Managua are seriously disturbed at the outlook, and are casting about for means to avert the attack by Colombia.

Capt. Byron's Resignation.

The resignation of Captain Joseph C. Byron, quartermaster, United States army, has been accepted by the President to take effect at once.

Minister Corea's Mission.

Mr. Corea, the Nicaraguan minister here, went to New York this afternoon to receive there Mrs. Zelaya, wife of the president of Nicaragua, who is due there from Europe tomorrow. She will visit the city about a week, and will then proceed to Nicaragua.

SANTA CLAUS' DREAM.

SANTA: "If This Were Only True I Could Comply With All Requests."

THE NEW CUBAN TREATY.

It is Expected That It Will Be Ready for Congress This Week.

General Bliss has telegraphed the State Department that he will be in Washington tohorrow. It is expected that he will bring the outline draft of the new Cuban reciprocity treaty. Secretary Hay and Secretary Root conferred today for nearly an hour upon that subject, and it is expected that the treaty will be signed and ready for transmission to Congress before the end of the present ueek. Just now a question for determination is whether the convention shall be submitted to the House of Representatives as well as to the Senate, and, while it is held that constitutionally the President need not recognize the right of the House in such matters, it is not improbable that a copy of the treaty will be submitted to that body.

ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICE.

Delegation From Washington State Urge Puget Sound as a Terminal.

Senator Foster and Representative Jones of Washington and a committee of citizens of that state appeared before Secretary Root, at the War Department, this morning in support of the movement to have the government transport business with the Philippines conducted by way of Seattle or some other port in Puget sound, and to that extent they advocated the acceptance of the bid of the Boston Steamship Company for the transportation of troops and supplies by way of Seattle. The Secretary said he would take their wishes into consideration before taking final action in the matter.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.

Selections for Ministers to Japan and Persia.

The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate:

State—Lloyd C. Griscom, Pennsylvania, minister to Japan; Richmond Pearson, North Carolina, minister to Persia.

Collectors of customs—James C. Tawes, for the eastern district of Maryland; Morton Tower, for the district of southern Oregon.

Assistant collectors of customs—Frank F. Patterson, port of Camden, N. J., district of Philadelphia, Pa.

Surveyors of customs—Leander M. Shubert, port of Council Bluffs, Iowa; James H. Bolton, port of Sioux City, Iowa.

United States marshal—William H. Northup, northern district of Florida.

Surveyor general of North Dakota—Erastus A. Williams, North Dakota.

Navy: Commanders to be captains—Edward D. Taussig, Richard Inch.

Also several promotions in the army, navy and marine corps, and a number of postmasters.

On the Asiatic Station.

Rear Admiral Evans, commanding the Asiatic squadron, has informed the Navy Department that the flagship Kentucky left Hong Kong yesterday for Cavite, and that the Wilmington has sailed from Shanghai for Kobe.

Quigley Named to Succeed Feehan.

ROME, December 15.—The congregation of the propaganda has decided to propose to the pope the appointment of Bishop James E. Quigley of Buffalo, N. Y., as archbishop of Chicago, in succession to the late Archbishop Feehan.

Chaplain Kelly Retired.

Chaplain Bernard Kelly of the 10th Infantry, recently at Topeka, Kan., has been placed on the retired list of the army on account of age.

Personal Mention.

Mr. William D. Guthrie of New York and Mr. W. S. Hunt of Houston, Tex., are at the Arlington.

Mr. James R. Soley of New York and Mr. H. I. Latham of Phoenix, Ariz., are at the New Willard.

Mr. F. B. Booth of Boston and Mr. D. D. Strite of Pittsburg are at the Raleigh.

Illness of Senator Money.

Senator Money of Mississippi is ill at his home, 27 B street northwest. He has been confined to his room for several days, but it is expected he will be out in a few days.

New Fourth-Class Postmasters.

M. Alban G. Thomas was appointed a fourth-class postmaster at Ashton, Md., this morning. Mr. Thomas succeeds George F. Nesbitt, jr., who died a short time ago. There were forty-nine fourth-class postmasters appointed today, forty-two of whom are to fill vacancies caused by death and resignation and five by reason of removal of the former incumbent from the service.

MAY HAVE TO CLOSE UP

Post Office Department Coal Supply Exhausted.

OTHERS ARE IN PERIL

ACTION TAKEN BY THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS.

Permit Granted for Temporary Tracks for the Chesapeake and Ohio Supply.

The supply of coal at the Post Office Department was exhausted at 4 o'clock this morning. The prompt loan by a local dealer of two tons of coal only prevented the necessity of closing down the big machinery by means of which the building is lighted and heated. This would have meant the suspension of business in many of the offices of the department. Several times in the last few weeks a similar condition existed, but each time enough coal was obtained to tide over until a greater supply could be got.

The engineer said this afternoon that a car load of coal consigned to the Post Office Department was on its way to the city. The advisability of shutting off the electric lights and temporarily discontinuing the elevator service is being seriously considered.

For an hour this forenoon the machinery used in the heating of the Interior Department building was shut down for lack of coal.

In Case of a Blizzard.

If a blizzard should be precipitated upon this city it would be necessary for Congress to adjourn. This fact is looked in the face calmly by every one at the Capitol charged with the task of heating the great building.

There were at 12 o'clock today but fifty tons of coal in the Capitol, which is exactly two days' supply. Coal is being delivered at the Capitol about as rapidly as it is being consumed, or at the rate of twenty-five tons a day. A contract with the Reading railroad provides for keeping the Capitol supplied with coal, and no fear is expressed about keeping the big building warm except in the event of a blizzard of sufficient severity to delay traffic. Col. Ransdell, sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, was prompt in making an arrangement with the Reading company for supplying the Capitol with coal, but it has not been possible to secure a great surplus within the city. Practically the heating of the Capitol, as is the case with all the public buildings, depends upon the daily arrivals of coal here during the Christmas holidays, it may be possible to decrease the amount of the daily consumption of fuel so that when Congress reassembles January 5 there will be a supply on hand greater than sufficient for two days as at present.

Government Greatly Hampered.

Unless coal can be obtained in quantities within the next twenty-four or forty-eight hours the government will be greatly hampered. There is not sufficient coal in the vaults of many of the departments to heat the buildings more than two days at the most, and some of them even less than that period.

The famine, so far as the buildings of the government are concerned, is today more serious than at any time since it began to be felt.

Many of the coal yards of the city are practically empty, and the supply received today and on its way is not sufficient by any means to meet the demand of private consumers.

Departments in Need.

The Senate has enough coal to keep the heating apparatus and electric-lighting plant going for a few days. The house stokers are burning cord wood in the furnaces to provide heat and run the electric-lighting plant. Sergeant-at-arms Ransdell has representatives in Philadelphia endeavoring to get a supply of coal. Several times he has had promises of carload lots, but they have not materialized.

The Agricultural Department, the census bureau and the Interior Department are, perhaps, the worst off. Unless coal shall be provided at once for these important branches of the government work will have to be suspended until such a time as they can be properly heated.

It is estimated that if all the coal belonging to the government should be apportioned the supply would be enough only for a few days.

With other cities a little farther north in the throes of a snow and ice storm it is not strange that a feeling of alarm and awe permeates the souls of the people of the national capital.

Shortage of Soft Coal.

Terminal Agent Legg of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad reported today that fifty cars of coal had been received from the anthracite mines since Saturday and that he expected fifteen or twenty more cars during the afternoon.

Local coal offices were besieged today by persons anxious to get fuel of any kind. The suggestion of snow made the demand even greater than at any time of late. Many were turned down, the prevailing answer being, "We cannot look to the wants of our regular customers, let alone those who have not dealt with us."

The scarcity of soft coal is the subject of comment on every hand. With all the bituminous mines working full or over time, it is hard to understand why there should be a shortage of supply in the city.

Commissioners to the Rescue.

The District Commissioners today took a step which may greatly relieve the coal situation in Washington. It was represented to the authorities that the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company has about 100 cars of anthracite and bituminous coal in its yards near here, but has been unable so far to secure the trackage facilities necessary for its discharge to the local dealers. It was said that it would be necessary to secure the consent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to handle the cars before a ton could be delivered here.

The Commissioners were told that if the Chesapeake and Ohio Company could secure this extra trackage it would not only discharge the 100 cars now in the District limits, but would deliver to Washington between thirty and forty cars a day hereafter until the coal situation is materially relieved.

Had Been an Embargo.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Company has lately placed an embargo on all coal consigned to Washington. The agents of the company said to the shippers that they could not deliver the coal in Washington, and therefore must refuse to haul it over their lines.

When these representations were made to the Commissioners today by a number of citizens and others interested in the coal matter they were told the Pennsylvania must be consulted. The officials of that corporation were seen forthwith.

They promised to handle the Chesapeake and Ohio coal provided the citizens would secure a permit from the Commissioners for the laying of a number of temporary tracks such as is done at inaugurations and the occasions of large conventions here. The Pennsylvania officials said they could not