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BEAR EXPEDITION STARTS OVERLAND.

To Relieve the Ice-Bound Arctic Whalers.

LAND AT CAPE VANCOUVER

Bear Could Get No Farther North on Account of Frozen Sea.

Steamer Lakme Arrived Yesterday From Dutch Harbor With the News That the Expedition Must Travel an Extra 700 Miles, Owing to Failure to Reach Sledge Island—Started December 17—Story of the Bear's Voyage—The Cutter to Search for the Missing Bark Coloma, Overdue at Dutch Harbor.

The government overland relief expedition, which is to carry provisions to the imprisoned crews of the eight whaling ships caught, without supplies, at Point Barrow by the early closing of the ice in the Arctic ocean, was landed at Cape Vancouver, 20 nautical miles south of St. Michael, on December 16, by the United States revenue cutter Bear. Two days later the expedition, under command of Lieut. Jarvis, started on the terribly uncertain trip

comes on December 26 for Dutch harbor with a cargo of lumber for the North American Transportation & Trading Company, had not arrived up to February 2, the date of the Lakme's departure, and the cutter Bear was preparing to go out in search of the vessel.

Through some mistake in shipping and ordering, there is a food shortage at Dutch harbor in some things. There is plenty of game and fish, however, and the shortage will simply cause some inconvenience. Just before the Lakme left a Montana man named Coley came into Dutch harbor and reported having discovered rich gold quartz in that vicinity. The officers of the steamer, however, were unable to learn any of the particulars.

Cruise of the Bear.

The following report from Unalaska, received yesterday by the Post-Intelligencer Alaska News Syndicate, gives the news of the cruise of the revenue cutter Bear. The Bear, north bound, reached Unalaska December 9, eleven days from Seattle. Fairly good time considering the season of the year. Rough weather was met for the first five days. During the entire passage across the Pacific the winds were from the southward. This raised the temperature of the air above what it was on Puget Sound. The first snow was met while going through Unalaga pass, and Unalaska was made in a blinding snowstorm, which shortly turned to rain and made a horrible mess. The object being to get north as quickly as possible, no time was lost in commencing to get surplus stores ashore (we had a deck load of beef and pork in barrels, restowing cargo, taking on coal and water. Night and day the work went on. In 96 hours from the time of arrival the vessel was on her way north, leaving Unalaska at 1:35 a. m. December 11.

Having had so much southerly weather in the Pacific, it was expected we would catch it from the northward in Bering Sea. Our good luck stood by us, however, and we zipped up a stout easter immediately after leaving Unalaska. All sail was made, and we were soon making from 10 to 11 knots. The weather was thick as

SPANISH EMPLOYEES STOLE THE LETTER.

De Lome's Clerk Was One Who Betrayed Him.

TOLD THE CUBAN JUNTA.

A Clerk in the Havana Postoffice Then Did the Work.

A Man in De Lome's Own Office First Read His Letter While It Lay on His Desk, and Told Its Contents—The Letter Was Traced to Cuba and Embounded by a Postal Employee, Who Opened the Envelope, Took Out the Letter, Substituted Blank Paper, and Permitted the Original Envelope to Go Through.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—The Press will print tomorrow what it asserts to be the true version of the acquisition and publication of the letter of Minister De Lome to Senor Canalejas. The authority cited for its authenticity is "a Cuban standing high in the councils of the party, who received his information from headquarters in New York."

The story proceeds to say: "The letter was not stolen from the United States mails, but was secured by an agent of the Cuban junta in the post-office at Havana. Don Jose Canalejas, to whom the letter was addressed, never saw the original. He did not know until eight days after the letter reached Havana that such a letter from Spain's representative at Washington had been written him."

"De Lome wrote the letter in his private residence in Washington, instead of at the Spanish legation. The paper, however, was marked with the official type, and read in the corner, 'Legation de Spana.' The same inscription was upon the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Senor De Lome did not mail the letter from his house. In fact, he had not quite completed it upon the morning it was written, and carried it to the legation, where it was first seen and noticed by a person who is in the employ of the minister in his inner office, the outer office being his place of reception to visitors. During an absence of half an hour from the inner office of De Lome, the clerk in question saw the open letter and read some of it. The next day this same person sent word to his Cuban associates in Washington to the effect that he had seen a letter from De Lome to Canalejas, in which McKinley was vilified and autonomy called a scheme. Several of the Cuban patriots got together and asked the employe of the embassy to secure the letter. They did not believe implicitly in his story, although he urged them to come into the public prints and make charges against De Lome. Because they did not have the letter in their possession the leaders refused to say anything about it. The employe of the legation was urged to use all means in his power to secure the letter, although it was considered probable that the letter was already in the mails when the Cubans at the hotel were informed of its existence."

"The clerk in the employ of Minister De Lome saw no more of the letter. His memory-written abstracts were forwarded to New York, and it was quickly agreed that, could possession of the letter be obtained, and his statements proven to be true, the letter would be of incalculable value to the Cuban cause, as substantiating what Cuban leaders had maintained regarding autonomy and the general Spanish policy, in official circles, toward this country and its officers. Immediately words of warning and urgings to be on the alert were sent to every Cuban who might be in a position to obtain track of or intercept the much-sought-for missive."

"The letter reached Havana five days after its postmark in Washington. An agent of the Cuban party, who is an employe of the Spanish postoffice, knew that the letter was on the way and when it came into his hands it was carried from the postoffice and a copy was made of it. "Word to this effect was sent to the Cuban leader in Jacksonville, Fla., who at once asked the secret Cuban junta in Havana to secure the original letter—that a copy was not what was desired. The Havana postoffice clerk was not willing to do this at first, but afterwards consented. As he was obliged to account for it to the other employes of the department, the original was taken, several blank sheets were substituted in place of the paper upon which De Lome had written, and the letter finally postmarked in the Havana postoffice and sent on its routine way. Eight days from its arrival in the Havana office, the sealed envelope, properly addressed to Senor Canalejas, was delivered at the Hotel Inglaterra. Senor Canalejas did not regard the matter seriously at the time, although the boy who brought him the letter and the postoffice employe who had last charge of it were arrested. So also was the hotel employe who went to the office daily for the mails. All were discharged after an examination."

"Senor Canalejas communicated almost immediately with Minister De Lome, and for several weeks letters and cablegrams passed between the two, but no trace of the letter could be found. Canalejas shortly afterward left Havana, going to Madrid."

"It is not explained why the letter was kept by the Cubans for several weeks before it was given out for publication. An informant other than the person who gave the foregoing, but inside the Cuban official circles, declares that the delay was at first occasioned by a desire on the part of the junta to be assured absolutely that the writing was that of the Spanish minister, so that he might not have any chance to deny its authorship and thus cause a reaction, which undoubtedly would have been the result of the propagation of a fake."

"Spain Will Express Regret. NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—A dispatch to the World from Madrid says: A formal statement of regret at, and censure of, Deputy De Lome's conduct, coupled with an expression of sincere desire that the Canalejas letter incident shall not impair the present friendly relations between the two countries, nor interrupt the negotiations for a commercial treaty, will be made by Minister Guillou immediately following the gazetting of the royal decree accepting De Lome's resignation, and appointing his successor as representative at Washington."

"On the other hand, the Washington correspondent of the World says that Spain has not disavowed responsibility for the utterances of Senor De Lome, and does not consider that any disclaimer of that character is necessary. From Spain's point of view the incident is closed, not only as to De Lome's reflections on the president and the American people, but as to his declaration that autonomy is a mere mockery and fraud."

"Such is the unsatisfactory information contained in the long expected statement from Mr. Woodford late last night. WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The 300-word cipher dispatch received from Minister Woodford Saturday night was translated at the state department today, but no intimation of its import could be secured from official sources. Assistant Secretary Day, who has been intrusted with the whole correspondence by the president, refused to discuss the message. He said merely that there was no development in the case which properly could be made public at this time. In one instance he supplemented the statement by the remark that the mere fact of information being withheld is not to be taken as a serious indication. Secretary Day dined at the White House, Mrs. Day still being out of town. Every effort to supplement Secretary Day's statement with some information from the White House failed. On urgent appeals for something definite, the president replied, through Secretary Porter, that the whole matter was in Secretary Day's hands, and that the president relied on him to handle the information for the press. It was stated at the White House, however, that there was no truth in the rumor of a censure upon Minister Woodford for allowing Dupuy de Lome to forestall him in presenting the application for the minister's recall. Minister Woodford's course, it was stated, had been entirely satisfactory, and any criticism at this time was unfounded and unfair. It could not be ascertained positively whether or not an answer to Minister Woodford's last dispatch had been sent. It is almost certain, however, that a reply has been drafted, and that it was put in cipher at the state department until after 8 o'clock. Special orders had been issued also to allow no one in the building without a pass. The Duke d'Arce, mentioned in Madrid dispatches as a possible successor to De Lome, has been the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Mackay-Smith, of this city, during the past week. With him is the Duchess d'Orzas, formerly Miss Virginia Lowrey, of Washington. The duke was ambassador to Mexico, and is stopping in Washington, en route to Spain. During the week he has been entertained by the British ambassador and Lady Paunceforte at luncheon, and by the late Spanish minister and Mrs. De Lome, who gave a dinner in his honor Thursday evening. Selecting De Lome's Successor. MADRID, Feb. 13.—The cabinet met to discuss tomorrow the choice of a successor to Senor Dupuy de Lome at Washington. The candidacy of Senor Porto Bernabe appears to be abandoned. Several members of the cabinet favor the nomination of the Duke d'Arce, Spanish minister to Mexico, because he could take charge of the Spanish legation at Washington this week.

GENERAL STRIKE OF COTTON OPERATIVES.

Textile Unions Will Call Out All Their Members.

RESULT OF GOMPERS' TALK

If This Is Done 147,000 Operatives Will Cease Work.

Probabilities Are That All the Unions Will Carry Out the Recommendations, That One of the Biggest Strikes in the Country Is Impending, Which Will Close Every Cotton Mill in New England—New Bedford Operatives Do Not Like the Change in Programme, Which Is Likely to Cut Off Financial Aid.

BOSTON, Feb. 13.—At a meeting in this city of fifty-five representatives of textile unions in New England it was unanimously voted to recommend that all unions call out the operatives in every cotton mill in New England.

The resolution was practically the outcome of the recommendation which President Gompers made to the Federation of Labor last Sunday, in which he urged the different unions to unite on some settled policy on the mill situation in New England. At that meeting a committee of four was appointed to take charge of the matter, and after a conference this committee recommended that a general meeting be held to take definite action.

Today the representatives of the various national textile associations assembled, and for four hours discussed the situation from every standpoint. The primary object of the meeting was to devise some methods of rendering assistance to the New Bedford strikers. It was pointed out that if the strikers at New Bedford could hold out for four weeks without receiving more than 20 cents per operative per week in the way of outside assistance, other mill operatives could stand a similar strain, and that if all went out it would precipitate a crisis that would have to be met within a short time by the manufacturers. It was also shown that the Mule Spinners were in excellent condition as regards funds; the United Textile Workers and the New England Federation of Weavers were in good shape, but that the rest were short of funds. The resolutions were discussed, and at length the matter was put to a vote, not one being registered against the motion that the different unions should order a general strike in every mill until satisfactory adjustment of wages could be arranged.

It now remains for the various national unions to take action in the matter, but what this action will be is a matter of conjecture. If all should acquiesce and vote to strike, 147,000 operatives would undoubtedly cease work, and the manufacture of cotton goods throughout New England would be at a standstill. If, on the other hand, only a few unions should vote to strike, the refusal of the others would still keep a large portion of the mills in operation.

Inasmuch, however, as the meeting was the outcome of President Gompers' suggestion, and as he admonished the members of the Federation of Labor to join hands and assist the New Bedford strikers, it seems probable that nearly every union will carry out the recommendations and that one of the greatest strikes ever seen in this country is impending.

New Bedford Strikers Do Not Like It. NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Feb. 13.—From the point of view of the New Bedford strikers, the action taken by the conference of textile unions in Boston today is scarcely likely to be received with joy, inasmuch as it is against the policy adopted at the meetings of the executive committee on the National Spinners Union, to wit: that New Bedford should be made the battleground, and until the conclusion of the strike here the other textile centers should remain at work, thereby acquiring the means to assist the New Bedford operatives in their struggle.

Then, at the conclusion of New Bedford's fight, the plan was that whether New Bedford won or lost, the strike against the general reduction should be extended in one district at a time until the whole of New England should be covered. In view of this plan, which, at the time of its adoption, seemed to meet with general acquiescence, the action of the conference would seem as a direct change of tactics. The delegates to the conference will report the new plan to their several unions, and although the Boston conference adjourned sine die, it is presumed that after action is taken by the unions a conference will be called to take action on the result.

Secretary Curran, of the general strike council, reports on collections received up to Saturday. The total amount for the week was \$1,475 as against \$1,359 for the previous week. Daniel De Lome, the socialist organizer, today closed the series of meetings which he held in the interest of his party. As a result of this meeting a branch of the socialist trade union movement has been formed in this city. This is the new trades union movement vouched for by the socialists and its fundamental principle is the wiping out of the capitalist class at the ballot box rather than the settlement of differences between capital and labor by strikes. Notwithstanding the attitude of the trade and labor alliance and the socialists toward strikes, they declare that they wish to do nothing to injure the present strike, but after it is all over they want the socialists to exert their influence at the polls.

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CAPT. TUTTLE, OF THE "BEAR."

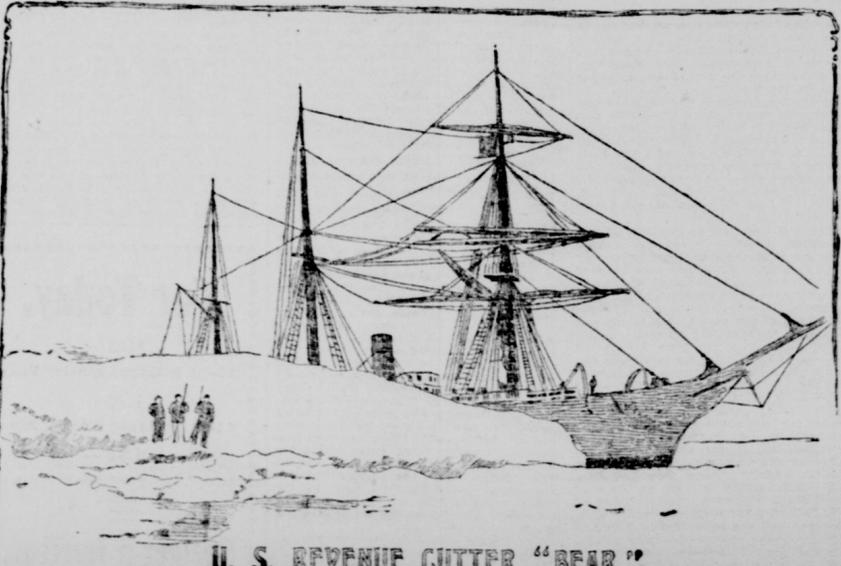
across the frozen wastes of Northwestern Alaska to Point Barrow. The distance is increased to 1,400 nautical miles by the failure of the Bear to reach Sledge Island, owing to the cutter's running into the ice pack south of St. Lawrence Island. After landing the expedition the Bear returned to Dutch harbor, arriving there on December 22.

This news was brought to Seattle yesterday morning by the steam schooner Lakme, Capt. Anderson, which arrived at 4 a. m., ten days out from Dutch harbor. The steamer's passengers were Capt. H. N. Nice, manager for the North American Commercial Company at Dutch harbor; William Kehoe and Charles Burns, ship carpenters, who have been working on the river steamers building at Dutch harbor. The bark Coloma, which sailed from Ta-

burgoo. Knowing we were the only vessel afloat in Bering sea, there was no anxiety about collisions. In sixty hours we were up to Southeast cape, St. Lawrence Island, which was the first land seen. The entire run had been made by dead reckoning, and the land was made within a half hour of the time calculated upon.

Amid the ice. Ice was first met here. Sail was now taken in, in order to have the vessel more readily under command. Within an hour the increasing quantity of ice while steaming to the northward warned us our progress in that direction was nearly at an end. It was then determined to steer to the eastward, toward the Yukon flats.

Continued on Page 2.



U. S. REVENUE CUTTER "BEAR."