

GERMAN WARSHIPS GATHER IN FORCE AT VENEZUELAN PORTS.

American, British and French Squadrons Promptly Collect Within Easy Reach.

DEFINITE ACTION IS EXPECTED.

Germany's Intention, It Is Said, Is to Establish a Strong Blockade of Venezuela's Coast.

WILL PLAY STARVATION GAME.

President Castro Declares That He Is Ready for Anything—Probably Counts on Sympathy in the United States.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The gathering of German warships in the vicinity of Venezuela, and the presence in the same locality of other foreign warships, is directing attention to the imminence of the naval demonstration which Germany is about to make against Venezuela.

Thus far the Government has not made known the exact details of her proposed move, the official communications to the United States being confined to an inquiry as to the attitude of this Government on the question of demonstration in view of the purpose of the party of the United States to acquire any permanent foothold in Venezuela.

It is believed that the first move by Germany will be the establishment of a blockade of Venezuelan ports so as to prevent the introduction of food products into Venezuela, and thus starve the besieged into submission.

On the part of Venezuela, it is semi-officially understood that President Castro has made known that he is prepared for any eventuality. There is complete silence, however, as to the defensive measures which Venezuela is adopting; but there is no indication that she is laying mines or preparing in any way to resist an occupation of La Guayra or Maracaibo.

With reference to the German occupation of Venezuela, it is thought to be likely that Venezuela will rely on harassing the invaders. The fresh water supply of La Guayra and Maracaibo is drawn from interior streams and these are expected to be cut off.

There appears, also, to be much reliance on the part of Venezuela in the sentiment and sympathy which can be aroused within the United States when a European power is actually operating on American soil and Venezuela issues a declaration of war.

There are a few hopeful signs on both sides that at the last moment a clash may be averted. The German Minister to Venezuela is still at his post, and there is some hope that he may still bring about a settlement. The outlook for a cash settlement, however, is rather meager, since Venezuela's Treasury is empty and all the Venezuelan officers are on half pay.

FRANCE ALSO HAS A QUARREL. Paris, Dec. 27.—The Foreign Office here confirms the report from Fort of Spain, Trinidad, that the Government of France has advised the Venezuelan Government that the rights of M. Secretar's Government have been infringed by the seizure of the property in Venezuela of Senor Manuel A. Sintes, the banker of the new revolution against President Castro.



TROUBLE FOR THE FORECASTERS.

LAUNCHING OF THE MISSOURI TO-DAY.

Delegation Left Washington for Newport News Yesterday—Long Goes To-Day.

BATTLESHIP COST \$2,885,000.

Is One of the Largest, Fastest and Most Perfectly Equipped Fighters in the Navy—New Features of Her Armament.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The launching of the battleship Missouri at Newport News to-morrow has created much interest. A large party of those who were fortunate enough to secure invitations left this evening on the steamer Washington of the Norfolk and Washington Line, as guests of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, whose president, Mr. C. W. Trammell, was here to-day arranging the details of the trip.

The Missouri congressional delegation were prominent among the guests who left this evening. Among them were: Senator Cockrell; his daughter, Miss Marion Cockrell, who will christen the ship; Mr. C. B. Cockrell, Mr. Frank Cockrell and other members of the family; Representative and Mrs. Benton, Representative and Mrs. Chamberlain, Commander E. D. Tausig, Mr. C. F. Norment, Mr. John Callaghan and Mr. Levi Woodbury of this city.

Others of the party were: Representative and Mrs. Rixey of Virginia, Representative and Mrs. Huppin of Iowa, Senator and Miss Millard of Nebraska, Mr. T. V. Powderly, Commissioner of Immigration; Representative W. F. Rhea of Virginia, Captain Reisinger of the navy, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, General and Mrs. James A. Dumont, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Chamberlain, Commander E. D. Tausig, Mr. C. F. Norment, Mr. John Callaghan and Mr. Levi Woodbury of this city.

The Missouri is a sister ship of the Ohio and the Maine. Her contract price was \$2,885,000. Her keel was laid February 7, 1898, and on the latest construction ship she is set down as 51 per cent completed. The Missouri's contract price is \$1,800,000. The hull is built of steel and is unshathed. It is 282 feet long on the low water line, 72 feet 3 inches extreme breadth, and at a mean draught of 23 feet 6 inches, displaces 13,200 tons.

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SAYS HE HAS SOLVED WIRELESS TELEPHONY

Kentucky Inventor Claims He Can Flash Vocal Signals to All Parts of the Country.

ONE CENTRAL HUMAN VOICE.

Hopes to Induce the Government to Extend Its Aid in Developing His Invention.

Paducah, Ky., Dec. 27.—Nathan Stubblefield of Murray, Ky., claims to have solved the problem of practical wireless telephony. He is an electrician and inventor of exceptional ability.

He has perfected an apparatus for sending and receiving vocal messages through the electric envelope or magnetic field of the earth. He regards the earth with its vibrated by the sound of the human voice.

FINED FOR THROWING STONES AT STREET CARS.

Judge Sidener Holds That Citizens Must Not Take Law in Their Own Hands.

Christopher Beck and Frank Warth were fined in the First District Police Court yesterday morning for throwing stones at street cars.

STOPPED CAR BY REMOVING TROLLEY.

Unique Method of Citizen to Compel Motorman to Come to a Halt.

ADMIRAL SCHLEY AT THEATER.

Appears in Public First Time Since Verdict Was Announced.

HELD TRANSIT CAR TO ENFORCE TERMS.

Eleven Passengers Avoided a Transfer in the Mud by Half-Hour's Wait.

COMPANY GRANTED A TRUCE.

Three Women Remained Until the Car Resumed Trip—Men Gathered Supply of Fuel and Kept the Fire Going.

Eleven passengers, three of whom were women, in a Transit Company street car in their possession for half an hour last night at the Fair Grounds sheds on the Grand avenue division and compelled the conductor to take them to their destinations before they would vacate.

When the junction was reached at 6:45 o'clock last night the conductor headed the car in on the siding and told the passengers that they would have to transfer to another car to continue their journey.

MACLAY'S HISTORY TABOOED.

Will Not Be Adopted as Text or Reference Book at Annapolis.

LEADING TOPICS TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

- THE SUN RISES THIS MORNING AT 7:28 AND SETS THIS EVENING AT 4:46. WEATHER INDICATIONS. For St. Louis and Vicinity, Rain or Snow, With Falling Temperature. Missouri—Rain or snow, followed by fair and colder Saturday, Sunday, fair and cold.

DEMOCRATS TO PLAN SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN

Sterling P. Smith Says Convention of County Committeemen Has But One Object.

PERSONALITIES ARE BARRED.

Discussion of Party Issues and Candidates Not Germane to Object of Meeting, Chairman Smith Declares.

Sterling P. Smith of St. Joseph, Mo., chairman of the County Committee of Buchanan County, who called the meeting of County Committeemen which will meet here December 30 and 31, arrived in the city yesterday.

Eleven passengers, three of whom were women, in a Transit Company street car in their possession for half an hour last night at the Fair Grounds sheds on the Grand avenue division and compelled the conductor to take them to their destinations before they would vacate.

When the junction was reached at 6:45 o'clock last night the conductor headed the car in on the siding and told the passengers that they would have to transfer to another car to continue their journey.

Finally a policeman was asked to eject the persons from the car, but he refused to respond, and then there was a telephonic communication between the conductor of the car and some of the head officials of the road.

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Washington, Dec. 27.—"MacLay's History of the United States Navy," volume III, will not be adopted as a text or reference book for use at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

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ASSET CURRENCY A CAMPAIGN ISSUE.

Ex-Comptroller of the Currency Dawes Discusses the Subject at Business Teachers' Meeting.

SEES NO REASON FOR CHANGE.

Says Our Banking System Is the Best in the World—Believes the Country Needs an Emergency Currency.

GEORGE P. LORDB, President of the National Federation of Commercial College Teachers.

In a speech before delegates to the convention of Commercial Teachers' Federation at the Odeon last night Charles G. Dawes, formerly Comptroller of the Currency, intimated that the fight of the next presidential campaign will be made on the question of "asset currency."

Secretary of the Treasury Gage, in his recent report to Congress urged the passing of measures to enable banks to issue banknotes without the security of Government bonds, but instead by guarantee bonds of 5 per cent of the assets of the different banks.

SEVEN KILLED, MANY WOUNDED.

Scouting Force Lost Heavily in Battle Near Dapod, Samar.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The War Department has received a cablegram from General Chaffee at Manila, giving an account of the engagement near Dapod, Samar, in which Company E, Ninth Infantry, lost seven men killed and many wounded.

PREDICTS IT WILL BE COLDER.

Doctor Hyatt Says There May Also Be Some Snow.

CALL FOR PASTOR SNEED.

Pittsburg Church Wants the St. Louis Clergyman.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 27.—The session of East Liberty Presbyterian Church to-night decided to recommend the Reverend Frank W. Sneed of the Washington and Campden Avenue Presbyterian Church to the congregation for election to succeed the Reverend J. F. E. Kessler, who is president of the Pennsylvania Teachers' Association, to be followed by the convention of the federation at the St. Nicholas at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

PITTSBURG CHURCH WANTS THE ST. LOUIS CLERGYMAN.

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