

THE COMMISSIONERS.

News of Their Appointment Cabled at Once to Venezuela.

MAPS AND OTHER ARCHIVES. They Become Immediately in Order, and the Venezuelans Have Not Neglected to Have Plenty of Them on Hand.

WASHINGTON, January 2.—The Venezuelan Minister promptly cabled his government this morning of the boundary commission's appointment and the names of its members.

The Venezuelans in Caracas had also assumed that the commission would be authorized by Congress, and had lost no time in preparing that country's side of the controversy for the consideration of the commission.

All these documents are now in Caracas, but they could be presented to the State Department within ten days of a notification that they were required here.

Until that time the work of the commission must necessarily be of a preliminary character. If the organization of the body is perfected, as is now expected, early next week, some time must elapse before the American minister at the Hague and Madrid could secure and transmit copies of Dutch and Spanish archives which are considered essential to an impartial adjudication of the opening claims.

Venezuela will submit in evidence maps that tend to prove her right to the disputed territory and, perhaps will consent to supply all others.

ATTITUDE OF ENGLAND. The probable attitude of the English Government towards the commission is the prevailing opinion that it will embrace the opportunity to state its side of the case, without agreeing to be bound by the findings, it is without considerable delay.

It is understood that although the English have accumulated all possible evidence to support their claims, they had never expected to be compelled to produce it, and have not arranged it in such shape that it could be promptly submitted.

It would not be surprising, therefore, if the English should take cognizance of the appointment of the American commission, if a request should be received from Lord Salisbury asking for a sufficient delay to enable his government to present its documentary proofs.

In any event, the actual discussion of the merits of the controversy can hardly commence inside of the next two or three months, and it is not probable that a decision for several months, if the investigation is to be made as thorough as is contemplated.

The five members of the Venezuelan-Guiliana boundary commission have not yet formally notified the President of their acceptance, but Mr. Cleveland had received assurance before the appointment that each of the five was willing to serve. It is learned that no formal tender of acceptance has been received.

The selection of Professor Gilman was largely determined by his prominence as a geographer. The fact that he has written a life of President Monroe, in which the chapters on the Monroe doctrine, in connection with his appointment, as Professor Gilman does not express any radical views on the subject, it is interesting to note that the President has taken the idea embodied in the famous doctrine did not originate with Canning, but was practically suggested many years before his time.

Justice Fuller is largely responsible for the selection of Justice Brewer. The Chief Justice had several talks with the President and Secretary Olney on the subject, and it is understood that the appointment of Chief-Justice Alvey was suggested by Justice Brewer.

BARREN OF INTEREST

House and Senate Chamber at Washington Like Banquet Halls Deserted.

ASST. SUPERINTENDENT, R. M. S. A Continuing Vacancy That Ought to Be Filled by Some Good Democrat—Telephone Fight at the Federal Capital.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 2.—(Special.)—There was nothing of interest at the Capitol at the end of the Avenue to-day. Senate chamber and House were like banquet halls deserted. At the departments there was an effort to get into working shape after the dissipation of the holidays, and chiefs and subordinates did their best to put on an air of business, but in some cases it was a dismal failure.

The Post-Office Department was, as it always is, in active operation. The Postmaster-General and all his assistants were at their desks, and things seemed to move as smoothly there on the second day of 1896 as they did on the closing day of past and gone 1895.

I asked an official if anything had been done towards filling the vacancy in the office of Assistant Superintendent of Railway Mail Service. The latter replied that the position is to remain open since July, 1894, during which time quite a number of well-endowed applicants have applied to secure it, among them two well-known Richmond gentlemen, the only ones known to me, a doleful, sad, and slow-tongued man, "No, there has been nothing done."

"Is there any likelihood of an appointment being made in the near future?" "No, I'm afraid not."

"Yes, it is," and, in the same half-sorrowful way, "the place—a good one—has been vacant so long now, a year and a half, and the service of the Government will not be improved by the Postmaster-General will not make any appointment."

"Some good Democrat ought to get the benefit of the salary," I ventured to suggest. "Yes," said the official, with some vigor of speech, "you're right. Some good Democrat ought to have it, but our Democrats are so—so hard to find."

"That seems strange," I remarked. "Strange as it may be," he said, "this time sharply and briskly. "Some of your folks squabbled and bargled over the place so long without coming to any agreement that the necessary bill embodying the law is not now stands. Others say, with a great degree of confidence, that the President will give Congress ample time to act before he takes matters into his own hands."

The Senate Finance Committee was in session to-day. Senator Morrill, of Vermont, who has very decided views, is the leading member of the committee. The Sherman bill may be reported. The tariff bill is also before this committee. It is hard to say which will be reported first, but in either case, then comes the question of a necessary bill embodying the Sherman bill may be reported.

Among the fourth-class postmasters appointed to-day were: B. W. Mears vice E. D. Young (resigned), at Keller, Accomack county, Va.; and J. M. Bloom vice S. C. Howard (resigned), at Mappsville, Accomack county.

Miss Blackford, daughter of Major Lewis Blackford, formerly of Lynchburg, won a bicycle offered to the most popular teacher in the Georgetown and the district of Columbia.

Mr. F. H. Buseby, the brilliant Raleigh (N. C.) lawyer, was a visitor here to-day. Commonwealth's Attorney W. F. White, of Staunton, was a visitor here to-day, and is stopping at the St. James.

Intelligence has just been received of the death at Georgetown, Virginia, of a Virginian, and was commandant at the Blacksburg College for many years. The hotel arrivals to-day include the following: C. Tomlinson, Richmond, Willard's; T. E. Keys, Virginia; P. E. Hayter, Virginia; D. W. Good, Roanoke, Vendome; W. T. Merrick and S. O. Fessenden, Durham, N. C.; H. L. Lawson, Virginia; Mrs. J. H. Blount, Greenville, N. C.; Mrs. H. L. and Master M. Stator, Tarboro, N. C.; F. R. Lassiter, Petersburg; E. S. Goodman, Richmond; the Raleighs, Mrs. W. S. and Mrs. Richmond; A. M. Scott, Greensboro, N. C.; Metropolitan.

H. Slater and wife, Richmond, Va.; Hotel Lawton, Lynchburg; J. M. Lawson and wife, Cobalt, Va.; F. H. Rahm, Richmond; J. D. Patton, Virginia; W. H. Miles, Richmond; J. James, Richmond; W. S. Wood, Richmond; A. S. Wilson, Richmond, Howard House.

GOOD FOR NORFOLK. There is good news for Norfolk, in the fact that the Texas has been ordered to the navy-yard there, where she will be decked to undergo the extensive repairs she is ordered by the Inspection Board. She will first be surveyed by a board of experts, which will report on the work to be done and the time required to do it. The necessary putting the ship out of commission, in which event the officers and crew will be distributed to other vessels. An inspection of all the monitors has been ordered, with a view to making extensive repairs so as to render them fit for coast defense, and Norfolk may come in for a share of this work also.

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EXPLOSION AND FIRE

They Lay Waste a Block of Buildings in St. Louis.

PEOPLE BURIED IN THE RUINS. A Number of Bodies Recovered from the Wreck—The List of Missing, Long—Some Nineteen Persons Injured.

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 2.—Just at 1 o'clock a series of terrific explosions laid waste the vicinity of Second and Vine streets, where allied trucks are numerous. Just after the clock struck a boiler in George F. Meritt's printing office, the basement of No. 38 north Third street, just across an alley from the Grubb and commission house of H. B. Grubb, exploded.

In the rear of the Grubb establishment a large quantity of fireworks was stored, and a second explosion occurred, followed immediately by a third, that lifted the boiler building and dropped it in a mass of wreckage. The explosion caused general consternation, and every windowpane within three blocks was broken. A large plate-glass window in the Merchants' Exchange, four blocks away, was shattered, and the traders stampeded.

Up to 6 o'clock to-night five bodies had been recovered, four persons are missing, as far as reported to the police, and the list of injured is nineteen. Several others were hurt. Following is the roll: The dead: JOSEPH KOVARICH, boy, employed by Levison & Blythe.

FRANK NIEHAUS, boy, employed by Levison & Blythe. CHARLES CLAYBROOK, colored, porter for Anchor Peanut Company. Two corpses taken from the basement of Grubb's building, the north wall and two floors of this structure went down. Within a half minute the three buildings were wrapped in flames.

NINETEEN MISSING. The police have made as complete a canvass as possible to-night of the city to ascertain the number of the missing, and the result is that nineteen of the victims are missing, though it is probable some of these are housed with friends.

At 7 o'clock the body of Albert Mellier, aged 12, was taken from the cellar of the Excelsior Wire building. It was partly burned. As late as 8 o'clock groans were heard in the wrecking, and the police had difficulty in restraining anxious relatives of the missing.

The city dispensary was turned into a hospital, and fully thirty slightly injured persons, besides the list given, were treated here. There are 37 bodies at the morgue, one not yet identified. The scene of the wreck is the centre of anxious inquiry from the kindred of missing ones. They stand in the bitter cold and watch with tearful eyes the work of the wreckers. Little work can be done to-night, but it will be continued till the debris is thoroughly searched.

It is believed that many buildings in the vicinity have been rendered unsafe, and a cessation of business about the wreck will be had until thorough inspection is made.

Some of the escapes from death were miraculous. James Kennedy, a printer, perched for twenty minutes on the frame of a third-story window, which fell just as the ladder-men reached him. John Harlowe was on the street in front of the Grubb building and was hurled across the street against a horse that had been killed against the opposite wall.

James Norland, one of the injured, was found under the debris with a heavy beam supporting the wreckage above him. A heavy telegraph pole fell across an express wagon and killed one horse, John Curran, and injured the driver, James M. The stories of escape from death are almost innumerable.

Special Sleeper to Atlanta Via Seaboard Air-Line. Commencing to-day an Seaboard Air-Line will put on a special sleeper from Richmond to Atlanta, via the famous "Atlanta Special." This sleeper will be opened at the Union Depot at 9 o'clock at night, and will arrive at Atlanta at 6:30 P. M. the following day.

For further information apply to H. M. Boykin, passenger agent, No. 38 east Main street. For Safety nothing excels the Fully-Paid Stock of the Mutual Guarantee Building and Loan Association, 103 east Main street, Richmond, Va. Seven per cent. guaranteed, with a further participation in the profits.

If the Baby Is Cutting Teeth be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing-Syrup. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind-colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

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