

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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SAURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1920.

A HAPPY DECISION. The Venezuelan trouble will be submitted to the Hague tribunal for arbitration.

The Venezuelan trouble will be submitted to the Hague tribunal for arbitration. Such is the news received from Washington yesterday afternoon.

President Roosevelt's desire, that the case should go to that court, has prevailed, all the parties in interest, we are told, being agreeable. This understanding is a most happy one, and relieves the administration from a very embarrassing position in which it was placed by the pressure the European allies had brought to bear upon the President to induce him to act as arbitrator.

As is very obvious, had the allies continued to be insistent, it would have been exceedingly difficult for Mr. Roosevelt to decline. There seemed no way, in truth, in which he could have declined with grace. The proposition was an expression of the highest confidence in this government, and a compliment to the country at large. That we think is indisputable, notwithstanding the over-suspicious, and the jingoes, who saw, or professed to see, an ulterior motive on the part of Germany in taking the initiative in making the proposition. But the duty would have been an exceedingly delicate one, and would have involved unpleasant, not to say grave, possibilities.

As to the financial phase of the issue, we hear somewhat the same relations to Venezuela that the allies bear to her Arbitration by President Roosevelt would place us in the attitude of a judge ruling in his own cause. More than that, it would carry the danger of setting a precedent touching proceedings for the satisfaction of claims we now have, or may hereafter have, against foreign nations other than South and Central American. Turkey owes us a bill, and the prospect of our being called upon to collect one from Korea is said to be looming up.

Again, Mr. Roosevelt's acceptance would have discredited the Hague tribunal, which we recently recognized in the most practical manner by submitting to its arbitration the Plus fund dispute, and there was the possibility of the Venezuelans construing his agreement to arbitrate into a renunciation of our understanding with the allies that we had no sympathy with Castro as to the matter in controversy. Last, but not least, it is clear that in the event of a decision by Mr. Roosevelt leaning towards Venezuela, no matter how much justice might demand it, the effect of the lesson that has been taught all Spanish-America would have been greatly lessened.

The dispatches announcing the determination to give the controversy over to the Hague tribunal also state that there is a general understanding that the Monroe doctrine is not to enter into the question of arbitration. The contention that it might be dragged into the issue, if the case went to the Hague court, has been dwelt upon at considerable length by this country who favored Mr. Roosevelt's acceptance of the office of arbitrator, and this has caused some little public apprehension in anticipation of the Hague court's being called upon to adjust the matter. But there is no real ground for fear on that score. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of Great Britain and Germany in declaring that they had no purpose of infringing the Monroe doctrine. That question was settled in the negotiations between the United States and the allies, which preceded the latter's coercive demonstration. It would be a gross breach of faith to attempt to bring it before the Hague arbitrators. In addition to this, however, such an attempt is barred by a stipulation the American delegates to the Peace conference at the Hague attached to our acceptance of article 27 of the treaty which created the permanent court of arbitration. That stipulation reads:

"Nothing contained in this convention shall be construed as to require the administration of any foreign State; nor shall anything contained in this convention be construed as to require the relinquishment by the United States of America of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions."

So it follows that the court can only deal with the specific issue that brought about the embargo, and as we see it the United States have nothing to lose and everything to gain by the case's going to the international tribunal. The conclusion which has been reached by all the parties in interest is one on which this country is to be congratulated. It relieves the administration of the necessity almost of accepting a grave responsibility, and safeguards against possible complications or friction that could be used, and might be used, to produce unrest at home and strain our foreign relations.

In the case of William E. Burt, of Travis county, Tex., the United States Supreme Court decided recently that an insurance company was not bound to pay the amount of a policy issued upon the life of a man who was duly tried and hanged. The lower courts were affirmed. To enforce such payment they all said would be against public policy.

LORENZ'S FEES. It has been reported that Dr. Lorenz, the famous Vienna surgeon, was paid a fee of \$10,000 for his treatment of the Armour child in Chicago, but the doctor himself says in an interview that he received one fee of \$3,000 at Chicago, and that in the four months he has been in this country he has received not a cent more. He says further that his practice at home in four months is worth that amount. He is glad he came to America, though, he continues. The trip, he declares, has been the crowning success of his life—successful ethically, but not materially.

The Baltimore American hopes that "all the mistletoe used in Virginia this season was properly sterilized." We venture the assertion that no kiss was missed and no miss was not missed by reason of microbe anger.

It was certainly a much quieter and more comfortable Christmas than usual in the matter of detonations in the streets. For this much thanks, gentlemen of the Police Department.

We now have horseless carriages and wireless telegrams. When we get noiseless streets the summum bonum of city life will have been attained.

THE COAL PILE. The job of whitewashing a load of coal is neither an easy nor an artistic one, but out in Chicago it may become a very important performance. For some time past, consumers of fuel have complained of shortage in their loads of coal, and a certain alderman of the Windy City intends to introduce an ordinance to prevent any frauds in this direction.

The method of remedying the evil which he has in mind is, to say the least, unique. It is to use a cross, drawn in whitewash, on top of the coal when it leaves the yards. The removal of coal from the wagon while it is being hauled to its proper destination will be indicated plainly by the breaking away of parts of the whitewash cross. The decorative art thus applied to the load will prove an effectual check to the driver, provided he has any inclination to help himself to the precious cargo in his custody. Just what would happen if the wagon were to strike a bumpy road, or the horses run away, does not appear to have been considered by the ingenious alderman. To the average mind, however, it would seem that such a calamity would put the jehu in a very compromising position.

As long as anthracite coal holds itself aloof from that large portion of the public which is classified as "impecunious," something assuredly should be done to protect purchasers from these alleged shortages in weight. But the whitewash cross, though decidedly ornamental, does not strike one as entirely practical. Wouldn't it be better to buy the anthracite by the dozen lumps, just as we buy eggs?

An Alabama colored preacher, who, in the interests of his race edits a paper called "Hot Shots," has announced his candidacy for the chairmanship of the United States Senate, whereupon the Philadelphia Record fires this well directed hot shot: "His candidacy affords a fine opportunity for the Republican majority in the Senate to vindicate its professed love for the negro, and throw hot shot into the ranks of disbelievers."

DO NOT HIT 'EM YET. The Northern Neck News thinks that after the Christmas holidays the General Assembly will get down to the real duty for which it was convened in extra session. "The work," adds the News, "will be highly important, being only second to that of the Constitutional Convention," but our contemporary does not apprehend that it will not be done.

That is the safe and the just view. In the past it has been the rule that the Legislature seldom got down to serious business before the Christmas recess. But after that the members have almost invariably buckled to hard work, and made rapid progress. So we doubt not it will be in this instance, and, therefore, we would say to our exchanges that are disposed to criticize the body for having frittered away time, that it might be well to hold up a little and see what the next two or three weeks will bring forth. And, by the way, for the reason among others that the General Assembly has never been able to accomplish much before the adjournment of the Christmas holidays, the new Constitution provides that hereafter it shall meet in January instead of December, as now.

John L. has been knocked out again, it seems. He was killed by a punch with Corbett and "Golden Rule" Jones at a Salvation Army dinner to the poor in Toledo on Christmas Day, but failed to "show up," and pleaded that he couldn't make up his mind to face a church crowd. It isn't stated exactly how he spent the day.

The doctors predict that Voltairine Le Cleyre, the anarchist victim of an anarchist pupil of hers in Philadelphia, will recover. It is to be hoped that with returning health and strength of body, she will be led in some way or other to rid herself of the mental ailment of anarchism.

YOHOGANIA COUNTY.

We have been looking around, unsuccessfully, for a Virginia county that is lost, strayed or stolen.

Its name was Yohogania, and it appears along with that of York in the Virginia Almanac of 1855, but is mentioned in print nowhere else that we have seen.

Mr. Arthur Steele, of Harrisonburg, writes us that we can find a satisfactory explanation of the disappearance of Yohogania in Kerchival's History of the Valley, page 176, but a search of the book, which we have had made, has not been rewarded as we had the right to expect from our kind correspondent's assurance. We judge, however, from what he says, that the county in question was in the Valley.

Shenandoah, we believe, is another county whose name has been changed. It was formerly called Dunmore, after the first and troublesome royal Governor of Virginia, who was in office in the colony when the Revolutionary war broke out.

And then there's Loudoun county—a name always spelled as now, but, originally, we have heard, pronounced Loudoun county.

"Mr. Solomon Smith, of near Hog Bottom, Jones county, was accidentally killed," "near" Hog Bottom? Heavens!

"At the next congress of newspaper men held in this country, we mean to rise and propose that a committee be appointed to find a suitable substitute for 'of near.'"

"We had thought it would be just as well to say Smith lived in the Hog Bottom neighborhood, but the laborious, unerring and inextinguishable avoidance by correspondents of this way of describing a vicinity has convinced us that there is a popular dictum which cannot be overcome; hence the necessity for finding some other substitute.—Richmond Dispatch.

Much power to your elbow and great luck to you. The Observer has been trying for long to reform the world on "of near," but its expostulations have fallen on stony ground, some of the offenders even defending the offence. We have abandoned the effort in despair.—Charlotte, N. C. Observer.

Well, let's call in the New York Sun as referee, with the understanding that it is to decide our way.

William L. Ekins made a Christmas present of \$60.00 to the girl orphans of Pennsylvania Masons, by donating that sum to establish a home for them. He can afford the gift, too.

Current Comment. In noticing that Boston "was ashamed that the 'Sun do move theory' was expounded before a congregation in the Hub last Sunday by a member of the late John Jasper's church in Richmond, Va., the Providence (R. I.) Journal makes a given, time at A. M. About to buy the cable off the Island of Oahu, in about 400 fathoms of water. Up to this time 228 nautical miles of cable have been laid out.

A heavier type than the sea cable, which is of a diameter of 1 1/2 inches, will be spliced to the sea cable some miles off Diamond Head, which is to be the landing place of the cable. Until the splice is completed no further work will be required from the cable ship. It may take a day or two to complete the work.

SMUGGLING AT SAN JUAN. Collector Testifies to Finding Liquors on Light-House Tender. SAN JUAN, P. R., December 26.—The hearing before United States Commissioner Anderson of the cases against Robert Giles, a government road contractor, and Lieutenant George Meatz, who, with others, are charged with smuggling wines and liquors from St. Thomas on board government vessels, was continued here to-day.

Collector Cruzen testified that Mr. Giles wanted to pay duty on the cases of liquors in question, and that he refused to accept duty, as there is no law permitting the entry of merchandise on government vessels. The collector said he boarded the light-house tender Laurel, where he saw three cases of liquor addressed to the captain of the Laurel; six cases were marked Robert Giles. One case was opened, and contained brandy. Collector Cruzen demanded three times that these goods be delivered him; upon failing to secure them he allowed thirty minutes for the cases to be delivered; they were turned over. He said that Mr. Giles and Lieutenant-Commander Meatz wanted to return the cases to St. Thomas.

Edward Conger, of the Laurel, was then recalled. He said the quartermaster of the tender had not reported the removal of any cases of liquor at Culebra. Quartermaster Schultz and Chipchase testified that nothing had been landed at Culebra and that the proceedings closed. The defense will submit its brief on Monday.

THREE FIREMEN KILLED. Two Seriously Injured—Brooklyn Factory Fire—Loss, \$100,000. NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—In a fire which shot through five factories in the river front district of Brooklyn early this morning, three firemen were killed, two were badly injured and more than \$100,000 damage was done. The list of dead and injured is as follows:

Michael O'Toole, fireman, water tower No. 8. Thomas Jeffries, fireman, water tower No. 8. Battalion Chief Thomas Coppinger, of 2nd battalion. Injured: Thomas McCarthy, fireman on water tower, right leg fractured and right hip crushed. William McCoolley, citizen, skull crushed.

Beginning in the coeprage plant of Arbuckle Brothers, at Plymouth and Bridge streets, within a half hour the flames were shooting from all the buildings, and all the available fire engines of Brooklyn were trying to save the district. Later engines were sent from New York City to the river. Water tower No. 8, with Battalion Chief Coppinger in charge, was run directly under one of the walls of the coeprage works. Suddenly the wall was seen to bulge at the third story, and before the men could move it crashed directly down on them. The firemen and McCoolley, the citizen, were buried and the water tower and ladders were smashed to kindling wood. Ten minutes later the first of the men was taken out. It was the Battalion Chief, unconscious and fatally hurt. He died at the hospital. McCoolley came next. McCarthy, who will die, it is thought, was found under a wheel at the tower, also unconscious. The bodies of Jeffries and O'Toole were found together.

Georgia Northern Train Burned. MACON, GA., December 26.—A Georgia Northern train, including four freight cars, a mail and an express car, and two passenger coaches, was wrecked last night near Pidecock. No passengers were injured, but the coaches were burned and a portion of the mail and express car.

Hood's Pills. Do not gripe nor irritate the alimentary canal. They gently yet promptly cleanse effectually and give comfort.

Fun Combined With Charity. The Sabbath-school of St. James Methodist church will have its Christmas festival next Monday night, for which an elaborate and interesting programme has been prepared. Not only the scholars and teachers, but every member and friend of the church is expected to be present. A pound party has been arranged in connection with the celebration, and everyone, both young and old, is urged to bring a contribution of food or money to the aid of the suffering among the poor may be relieved and a true sense of the blessing of giving may be inculcated in the hearts of the children.

Denial of Sale of Railway. MACON, GA., December 25.—F. W. Pidd, vice-president and general manager of the Georgia Northern railroad, in a dispatch to the Macon Telegraph from Moultrie, Ga., denies the report that his road has been sold to the Atlantic Coast Line, or any other company.

Repudiated the Asperation. "Say, Bill," said the chronic beggar, "I'm all out o' tobacco. Open yer heart for one, an' gimme some." "What?" replied his fellow-workman, "do you think I've got a tobacco heart?"—Philadelphia Press.

Another Reform Demanded. "Did you hear about that member of the Legislature who wants to pass a law requiring a public salute before people can kiss?" said Maude. "Yes," answered Mamie; "and I think 't's time they made a man produce proof

THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

(Edith M. Converse in the Delineator.) O, the Man that has charge of the days that follow the festive Christmas!

Some days are so nice, like the Fourth and Thanksgiving—If they'd come twice as often 't would be more like living.

But still about this we'll not grumble or leave out. If the Day After Christmas you'll only leave out.

We can't tell just why, but somehow on this day Everything seems to act in the horriest way.

Your engines get smashed and our new tops won't run. Mamma says, "For pity sake, put up that drum!"

"Go and read your new book," but the words are too long. We can't say 'em right and the sense all goes wrong.

I can tell you, with dinner that day we're soon through. We hate turkey soup and your old drumsticks, too.

We've had tastes in our mouths, and our stomachs feel tight. Tho' we could eat some chocolate, 'p'raps, if we might.

O, the Man that has charge of such things, do you hear? Leave the Day After Christmas clear out of the year!

Congratulations. "I made an embarrassing mistake just now," remarked Van Major. "Congratulations Miss Churchhouse on her engagement instead of giving her my best wishes."

"That's all right," said Von Miner, reassuringly; "she's the one who is marrying the money."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Appropriate. "You will notice," she said, desiring to illustrate the value in which women set their hair, "that a woman's head adorns all our cities."

"Yes," he replied; "and it's very appropriate, too. Woman is very closely identified with the expenditure of money."—Chicago Post.

Dr. Ware's Anti-Kissing Lotion. (London Daily Chronicle.) (Adapted from Longfellow's translation from the German.) I know a maiden fair to see, Take care

She has two eyes, so soft and brown, Take care! For there is fever in the town, "And there," says Ware, "Like as not, the germs may be."

And she has hair of a golden shade, Take care! "For that is where consumption's made, Just there," says Ware: "Kiss her not—there's risk for thee."

"But if a permit thou canst show," Says Ware, "Then to the busy market go, And there, yes there, Take thy kiss, where all may see."

And of the townsfolk gathered there, Take care! "Thou must the mien of sorrow wear; And that," let Ware Have foremost said—his fooling thee.

His Specialty. "Didn't you tell me dat dog you sold me were a huntin' dog?" "Sho'." "He no want to do nuffin' but look for a com'fable place to lie down in." "Da's right. Huntin' wahn spots is his specialty."—Washington Star.

Under the Mistletoe Bough. (Punch.) (According to the Daily Telegraph of December 24 the following bill has been introduced into the Legislature of Virginia by a Dr. R. B. Ware: "Whereas kissing has been decided by the medical profession to be a medium by which contagious and infectious diseases are transmitted from one person to another; therefore, be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia that it shall be unlawful for any person to kiss another person that he has not any contagious or infectious disease."

He. Mamma, look, we're standing now 'neath the eucalyptus bough; Kiss the girl, she's lovely and sweet; For a swain and a maid expectant—List, then, to my ardent vow!

She. Marmaduke, it may not be Till I personally see That your family physician Testifies beyond suspicion That you are bacillus free.

He. From the test I do not flinch When it comes unto the pinch—See, I am certificated! Kiss the girl, she's lovely and dated! Isn't that a perfect clinch?

She. Yes—one little moment stay! Let me read it closer, pray! Ah, 'twas as I feared, invalid, For your leave (don't look so pallid!) Ended after yesterday!

Both. Still, no prying eye attends, While the branch above us bends! There, we've taken one illicit kiss—the State will never miss it! Let them fine—we've made amends!

SOUTHERN SENTIMENT. Comment of the Press on a Variety of Topics. If the President should allow the several European powers to push him into the position of arbitrator, he would be placed in a very delicate and possibly embarrassing situation.—New Orleans Picayune.

The excuse for use of child labor in the mills which a Greenville (S. C.) millman offers, to-wit: that there are very few children under 12 years of age used, is a poor excuse. The question is not one of numbers. If there be but one child wrongly used, the argument against that use is a good one. Moreover, if there are very few children used, why should the millmen so strangely oppose enactment of laws forbidding the use of children?—Mobile Register.

But if agriculture is without opportunity to pile up wealth, it has its compensation for the loss. The life of the farmer may be one of toil, of patient endurance, of comparative isolation from fellow-man, but it is one of the greatest independence. The man between the plow handles is the freest man on earth.—Charlotte Observer.

The Governor of Virginia asked the Legislature to appropriate \$50,000 for the State's representation at the world's fair. St. Louis and Virginia has a contest which permitted the Legislature to make such a wise investment. Georgia, unfortunately, has not. But her people will, individually and collectively, see to it that this State is properly represented on this occasion.—Atlanta Journal.

And why is not a newspaper the highest citizen of a city? Why is it not the aggressor in the expression of the best civic sentiment and civic character of the community which it represents? And why should not a newspaper's life and existence be pitched upon the same plane

that he is sane before they let him into the Legislature."—Washington Star.

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LOOK! Here Is a Bargain.

\$350 PIANO FOR \$185.

A fine mahogany case, sold when new for \$350, will be sold to-day for \$185.

This is not a worn out piano. Seeing is believing. So come to-day and be convinced.

Terms, \$10 cash and \$7 per month. Stool and Scarf free. Five years guarantee.

CHAS. M. STIEFF, 431 E. Broad St.

and policy that should characterize the life and works of the best citizen of the State?

And whenever an individual or a contemporary does anything worthy of praise or censure, they should be dealt with as fairly, as fearlessly, and yet as kindly, as the highest citizen would deal with another citizen—according to the merits without hesitation when deserved, and not withholding blame. But never at any time stooping to vindictiveness or malice.—Atlanta News.

Wires Should Go Underground. (Charlotte Observer.) The putting of telephone wires underground has begun in Richmond. It should be a requirement of law that telegraph and telephone wires should be put underground in all cities as large as Charlotte, for, as the Petersburg Index-Appellate, in referring to this new procedure in Richmond, "they are unsightly, inconvenient and dangerous on poles in the public thoroughfares, and certainly give accommodation to the vandals who endeavor to warrant the concession of this great privilege."

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., Dec. 26.—The following has been received from the cable ship Silverton, time at A. M. About to buy the cable off the Island of Oahu, in about 400 fathoms of water. Up to this time 228 nautical miles of cable have been laid out.

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