

## COWARDLY CREW LEAVES OFFICERS TO PERISH ON THE FAST-SINKING STEAM COLLIER BRISTOL

### COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT AIDS REBELS

Permits Venezuelan Insurgents to Land at Savanilla.

Believed to Be in Sympathy With Movement Against Castro.

Duplicity of the Caracas Officials in Refusing M. Secrestat a Landing Will Cause Action by France.

COLON, Colombia, Jan. 15.—The steamer Libertador, the vessel being used by General Matos of Venezuela in the revolution against President Castro of that country, arrived at Savanilla, Colombia, January 12, with General Matos on board. Upon disembarking General Matos took the train for Barranquilla, seventeen miles distant. It is believed in some quarters here that the Colombian Government is in sympathy with the operations of the Libertador.

The Government has purchased the steamer Chucuito, belonging to the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Artillery from the Colombian gunboat General Pinzon will be mounted on the Chucuito, which is a little bigger than the Liberal gunboat Dartan.

#### Eight Shots Across Bows.

Three hundred of the men brought here yesterday from Savanilla by the Pinzon proceeded to Panama to-day. A small sailing vessel, which has just arrived at Panama, reports that the Liberal gunboat Padilla fired eight shots across her bows while she was at sea, but that she was permitted to proceed to her port in the Department of Cauca.

The Colombian Government has cabled General Alban, the military commander of this district, that it is about to send him 200 men from Buena Ventura, on the Pacific Coast, should he require them.

#### France Has Fresh Grievance.

WILLEMSTAD, Island of Curacao, Jan. 15.—After much loss of time, allowed all the passengers but one, M. Secrestat Jr., to land at La Guayra from the French line steamer St. Laurent, from Bordeaux, by way of Santander, December 17. M. Secrestat is the son of the French merchant who obtained a lease of the estates in Venezuela belonging to General Manuel A. Matos, leader of the revolution against President Castro, and he was on his way to Caracas in order to enter formal protest against the seizure of the estates in question by the Venezuelan Government, in spite of the fact that the transaction had been legally recorded. This refusal to allow M. Secrestat to go ashore, though the French Consul at Caracas received from the Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs a written pledge that M. Secrestat would be allowed to land without any difficulty, has resulted in energetic protests on the part of the Consul, who has referred the matter to his Government. The pretext on which the landing of M. Secrestat was forbidden is that he may have conferred with General Matos.

#### Greeted by Nicaraguans.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Jan. 15, via Galveston.—President Zelaya gave an elaborate reception at Corinto to-day in honor of Presidents Regalado of Salvador and Sierra of Honduras and General Molina, the Minister of War of Guatemala, who have arrived at that place on the invitation of President Zelaya, to hold a conference in conjunction with representatives of the other Central American republics looking, as declared, to the preservation of peace in those states. Thousands of natives of Nicaragua were present at the function.

#### TROOPS KILLED BY MISTAKE.

Two Bodies of Government Soldiers Engaged in Battle.

COLON, Jan. 15.—News of a serious mistake in which a force of Government troops fought another body of Government soldiers, thinking it was composed of Colombian revolutionists, has been brought here by the Colombian warship General Pinzon.

The mistake happened in the vicinity of Dibulbo, near Rio Hacha, and it resulted in eighteen men being killed and sixty-three wounded. Captain Merritt of the General Pinzon says that that vessel landed 400 men in Dibulbo to drive back the insurgents. The revolutionists retreated toward Rio Hacha when the Government troops advanced. It was decided to divide the Government forces into two bodies in order to capture the rebels. One of these met the rebels and after a sharp engagement the insurgents retreated.

The other body of Government troops then came up, having heard the firing, and the mistake followed. Thinking that it was opposed by rebels, each force started firing. The fight was kept up for four hours, when General Pollaco discovered the mistake and stopped the battle, which had been evenly contested.

#### Chinese Murderer Escapes.

ILWACO, Wash., Jan. 15.—Lum You, a Chinese sentenced to be hanged on January 21, escaped from the South Bend Jail yesterday and is still at large.

## COUNTY CLERK MAHONY DENIES AUTHORITY OF MAYOR TO INVESTIGATE HIS ALLEGED MISCONDUCT AND REFUSES TO TESTIFY OR DENY EXISTENCE OF DEANE CONTRACT

### Schmitz Says Accused Is Not Conveying a Favor.

### Hearing of Evidence Will Continue To-Day.

BERT MAHONY, County Clerk, denies the authority of the Mayor to investigate charges against his official integrity, and prefers to rest under accusations that if proven mean dismissal from office, disgrace and possibly the felon's cell.

Mahony and his attorney, Thomas D. Riordan, responded to the subpoena and appeared before Mayor Schmitz yesterday afternoon, but on the advice of Riordan, Mahony refused to be sworn or to make any statement.

#### Investigation Not Completed.

The investigation by the Mayor was not completed yesterday. It will continue this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Former County Clerk Deane will be called upon to testify, and Mrs. Deane will be asked to relate what she knows of some of Bert Mahony's ante-election pledges to her husband and his later appeals to the men whom he had turned down so treacherously to spare him the disgrace of exposure and to give him a chance to free himself from the baneful influence of Crimmins and Herrin that he may yet fulfill his promises to his personal friends.

Mahony doubtless will continue to deny the Mayor's jurisdiction. Mayor Schmitz, in common with all except the few whose selfish interests array them with Mahony, is evidently convinced of the County Clerk's guilt, for the evidence is conclusive and Mahony's course, even in the absence of positive testimony, would convict him before any tribunal where justice is not both blinded and gagged by legal technicalities. There is little doubt that the Mayor will proceed with characteristic vigor against the wobbly County Clerk whose feet have strayed so far from the path of official rectitude. Mahony's attorney will appeal to the courts, and if the law's safeguards against punishment of the innocent can be invoked for the protection of the all but self-convinced public servant Mahony is likely to continue for some months to come his obnoxious direction of incompetent deputies, who are fast making a muddle of the affairs of the living and of the dead that must become matters of record in the County Clerk's office.

#### Grand Jury Is Another Story.

But there is another host with whom



CAUGHT!

Mahony must reckon. He refuses to be sworn before the Mayor, and the Mayor's investigation suffers that handicap. Tomorrow the Grand Jury will begin an inquiry. The principal actors in the scandal and the agents of its exposure have been subpoenaed and there will be no saying nay to the Grand Jury. The County Clerk may mop his brow and turn and twist and double on his tracks, and his counsel may interpose objections and grope for legal obstacles, but the murder will out. Truth to say, between the Mayor

and the Grand Jury, and with documentary evidence of his venality in existence and witnesses ready with damning testimony, the County Clerk's bed is not one of roses. But he has made it and he must lie on it. The Call is not a public prosecutor. Its duty to the public demanded the publication of the story of Mahony's illegal acts. If the County Clerk has been libeled he has recourse through the courts. If the charges be true, if Mahony has offended against charter provision and State law, if the

important functions of the County Clerk's office are under the direction of a man who is guilty of felony, the sense of right and justice will demand that retribution be swift and sure. Crimmins and Herrin will not have many to join them in the hope that technicality may impede the wheels of justice.

#### Denies Mayor's Jurisdiction.

Attorney Riordan bases his denial of the

### County Clerk Tries to Suppress the Story.

### Grew Agitated When Told of His Bond of Shame.

FOR two hours and a half yesterday afternoon the Mayor's office was a torture chamber for Bert Mahony. Two witnesses gave accounts of the knowledge that had come to them of the County Clerk's disregard of law in his efforts to secure office. John Flood made lame denial of remembrance of the now famous ante-election contract, but would not state positively that he had not signed such a contract. Mahony himself refused to testify, acting on the advice of his attorney.

The investigation was in executive session, and at 4:30 o'clock Mayor Schmitz sent for the reporters, who were waiting in the outer office, and informed them that the investigation had been continued and would proceed at 2 o'clock this afternoon, when other witnesses would be present. He said that nothing would be given out until the conclusion of the investigation, when copies of the stenographic report would be furnished the papers.

Mahony and his attorney, Thomas D. Riordan, were waiting in the outer room of the Mayor's office when the hour set for the investigation—2 o'clock—came. Soon after they were ushered into the Mayor's presence.

A little later the manager of The Call arrived and was admitted to the inner office.

Mayor Schmitz asked Mahony if he was ready to be sworn, and held up his hand, preparing to administer the oath.

#### Mahony Refuses to Testify.

"Acting under the advice of my attorney," Mahony replied, "I refuse to be sworn. We do not recognize your jurisdiction in this matter."

Riordan explained the grounds of his objections to investigation by the Mayor. He said the office was a county office and its incumbent could not be removed by the chief executive of the municipality; and that even if Mahony could be removed from office by the Mayor for cause, the alleged offenses were committed before the election of either Mahony or the Mayor and were beyond the range of legal inquiry by the Mayor.

In answer to the Mayor's assertion that if a charter provision had been violated in the distribution of rewards he surely had power under the charter to remove the offender from office, Riordan replied that such distribution of rewards as per the alleged contract had not been made.

Abe Ruef, the Mayor's attorney, came in during the discussion and advised the Mayor that he had authority to proceed.

"I will make this statement," said Attorney Riordan, "my client has not signed any contract in violation of the law."

"Did he sign the contract specified by The Call?" asked Mayor Schmitz.

"I will not say that he did not," said Riordan, "but he did not sign anything in violation of the law."

"I want your statement about this contract," the Mayor said to Mahony, and again urged him to take the oath, but Riordan refused to permit it.

Continued on Page Three.

## AVAILABLE BOATS ARE ALL TAKEN

Seamen Abandon Captain McIntyre and Six Men.

Cottage City Brings Sensational Accounts of the Disaster.

Her Master Declares Not a Soul Should Have Been Lost in the Wreck of the Coal-Laden Steamship.

Special Dispatch to The Call. PORT TOWNSEND, Jan. 15.—The death of Captain James McIntyre, Pilot Roberts, Chief Engineer Vivian, Third Engineer Edwards, Oiler Huribut, Second Steward Roemer and Joseph Silva of the steamship Bristol was due to the cowardice of the crew, who took all the available boats and left these seven without means of escape. This is the substance of the stories told here to-day by the captain and seamen of the steamship Cottage City, just arrived from the north.

The statements of Captain Wallace of the Cottage City throw new light on the manner in which Captain McIntyre and other officers of the Bristol met death when that vessel crashed on the rocks near Dixon entrance on January 2.

#### Conflicting Stories Are Told.

When the survivors arrived here Chief Officer Smith said that the seven men were preparing to launch a lifeboat when the last survivors left the wreck. According to the reports brought by the Cottage City the Bristol carried only four boats and a small skiff and either one of the large boats would have carried the entire crew of twenty-eight men. It is the opinion of Captain Wallace of the Cottage City that as soon as the vessel struck there was a general scramble for the boats. The first boat to leave contained fourteen men, the second five and the third only two, leaving seven men to bottom the big lifeboat, which was turned bottom up and securely lashed to the deck. Before it could be lowered the ship went down, carrying the unfortunates with it.

When the boats were rescued by the Cottage City, Mate Smith gave an account of the mishap differing from the one he related at Ketchikan, where the survivors were landed, and while in this city he gave several versions of the disaster to relatives, of Captain McIntyre and to newspaper men. Captain Wallace says that when he picked up the crew no two of the men told the same story relative to the last moments on board the Bristol before they deserted her, and not one of them could give an intelligent account as to the place where the vessel struck.

Captain Wallace further declared that he could not decide, from the various stories, when the vessel struck, so he cruised around the various reefs and at no place could he find wreckage or anything to indicate a disaster. The weather was clear and with glasses he could discern anything a distance of ten miles.

#### Seaman's Account of Wreck.

One member of the crew is reported to have said in Ketchikan that Captain McIntyre had gone into his room to get his bird and dog. When he came out the crew had taken to the boats. This sailor made a rush and succeeded in getting into one of the boats and thereby saved his life. That was the last seen of those who remained on the Bristol.

The greatest confusion prevailed when the vessel struck and it was "every man for himself." If such had not been the case all would have been saved.

Relatives of Captain McIntyre residing here have abandoned all hope that he reached one of the numerous islands and have given him up as lost. Because of the information they have received relative to the conduct of the crew and which they refuse to make public at present they will demand a rigid investigation of the wreck by the Canadian authorities. They declare that sensational developments will be brought out.

### BATTLESHIP IOWA WILL ROUND THE HORN

Famous War Vessel to Be Flagship of the South Atlantic Squadron.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—Secretary Long will order the battleship Iowa to round Cape Horn and assume duty as the flagship of the South Atlantic squadron. The Iowa is now in Chilean waters. The Argentine press may resent her appearance in Argentine waters because of the speech Captain Perry, commanding the battleship, is alleged to have made, in which he predicted a victory for the Chilean navy in case of war.

The determination of the Secretary to send the flagship to the South Atlantic shows that he will shortly select a flag officer to command this station. Rear Admiral E. M. Shepard is mentioned among those in the Secretary's mind for the place. In assigning the Iowa to the South Atlantic Secretary Long has pursued a policy of having a battleship on every American naval station. The Oregon was in Asiatic waters until the Kentucky arrived. The Wisconsin is on the Pacific station. The Illinois has been selected for service in Europe. Four battleships are in North American waters.

## COUNTY CLERK MAHONY DEFIES ANY MUNICIPAL CRITICISM OF HIS ACTS

ONE of the most remarkable scenes ever witnessed in this city took place yesterday afternoon in the office of Mayor Schmitz when County Clerk A. B. Mahony was summoned by the chief magistrate of San Francisco to answer the grave charges which The Call has made against him. More remarkable than this fact was the position taken by the County Clerk, who stands discredited under a weight of suspicion and accusation which he dare not deny.

In answering this official demand to vindicate his personal honor and clear his skirts of the deeply significant accusations of irresponsibility and crime, County Clerk Mahony did not even accept the privilege granted to every accused person who stands either before the bar of public opinion or of a court. He did not have the hardihood to plead not guilty, but through his attorney took the extraordinary stand that whatever he did, criminal or otherwise, before his induction into office, is not a subject of legitimate inquiry by the Mayor of San Francisco.

County Clerk Mahony stands accused by this paper of having committed a felony in signing a written pledge to appoint William A. Deane his chief deputy and four or five of Deane's personal friends to positions of responsibility in the County Clerk's office in consideration of the retirement of Deane as an opposing candidate for the nomination of County Clerk. In signing this agreement County Clerk Mahony under the laws of this State committed a felony and under the provisions of the municipal charter an offense. Under one he is subject to the punishment which the commission of a felony involves

and under the other he has made himself liable to summary removal.

Mayor Schmitz made every endeavor yesterday to induce County Clerk Mahony either to affirm the truth of the accusations or to deny them. The County Clerk declined to be sworn. He insisted that his acts of whatever character were not subjects of investigation by the Mayor and concluded with the impudent proposition that he is, as far as the chief executive of this city is concerned, above criticism or censure. Notwithstanding this unusual attitude of the County Clerk, Mayor Schmitz pursued his inquiry and from other witnesses learned that the County Clerk had signed an incriminating ante-election compact identical in provisions as The Call has declared.

The inquiry will be resumed to-day, and to-morrow the Grand Jury, aroused to vigorous action by the gravity of the affair, will begin an independent investigation. And during all of this County Clerk Mahony stands doubly discredited before the people of this city. He has appeared before a magistrate of competent authority and in the face of accusations which stain his personal and official honor has refused to deny the charges. He has sought to delay the inevitable effect of his ante-election compact by concealing himself behind the barriers of a court's delay. He has met the most serious assault upon his personal and professional honesty by declining to meet this attack upon him and The Call again asks him in the name of public decency to prove that it has either unjustly maligned him or to admit that he is what The Call characterizes him, a man unfit to hold public office, an official dangerous to the community, and a type of authority which is distinctly an evil to this city.