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# GUARDING CARIBBEAN GATEWAY

## Coghlan to Have Command of a Big Fleet.

### Plan Contemplates the Most Modern of Battleships.

### Force to Be Strong Enough to Offset Any European Interference.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CALL BUREAU, 1406 G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—When Rear Admiral Coghlan with his flagship Olympia takes command of the Caribbean division of the North Atlantic station there will be established the nucleus of what will ultimately become a fleet of the most modern battleships. This will be the third battle fleet desired under the new plan of mobilization for the navy, which contemplates the placing of a battle fleet on the North Atlantic coast, one in Asiatic waters and cruiser squadrons elsewhere. The North Atlantic fleet will be the first formed, and then the Asiatic station will be organized. The filling of the battle fleet contemplated for the protection of the Government's vital interests in the Caribbean is dependent upon battleships the construction of which the next two Congresses will authorize, but is expected to be organized by the time the Panama canal is completed.

IMPORTANT IN STRATEGY.

At that time, when its interests will be more vital than ever before, the United States will have a naval force on watch at the Atlantic entrance of the Caribbean strong enough to offset any European interference with the canal, Cuba or any effort to meddle to an undue degree in unsettled affairs in South American countries.

The Caribbean fleet is not yet formed even on paper. The immediate energies of naval experts are busy with the exasperating problem of the inadequate personnel at the present time, but strategists realize that the Caribbean Sea is to be the theater of the world's politics before many years. They believe Germany and other powers are fully cognizant of this fact, and that it behooves the United States to see the influence of this country in Central and South America constantly made evident.

GERMANY IS WATCHFUL.

The fleet which Admiral Coghlan will take command of when he arrives in the Caribbean about the middle of October will be composed of the Olympia as his flagship, the Cincinnati, the Montgomery, now at Cape Haytien, and the Marietta, now in Venezuelan waters. It is not a formidable force, but well adapted to the work of keeping riotous republics from harming American interests. Even now Germany has fully as strong a fleet in the Caribbean. The German cruisers Falke and Gazelle have been in Venezuelan waters more than three weeks. The Panther, which sunk the Haytian gunboat Crete-a-Peirrot, is still in the Caribbean, as is still another German warship. France is well represented, and even Italy has a warship or two within easy distance of possible points of disturbance.

### GAINS HIS LIBERTY AFTER TWENTY-TWO YEARS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—The President has granted a full and unconditional pardon to William Dinkella, convicted in 1880 before a United States consular court in Japan of the murder of Charles H. Abbott, first mate of the American ship Centennial, while lying in Hiogo harbor, the prisoner being second mate of the ship.

Dinkella has been in prison for more than twenty-two years, two years in Japan and over twenty years in the Albany, N. Y., prison. He always has insisted that the crime was committed in the heat of passion and when he believed his own life was in jeopardy, the testimony showing that the murdered man had beaten and choked the prisoner almost into insensibility when the prisoner secured his pistol and shot Abbott dead. The Attorney General says that the element of premeditation was entirely lacking and that in these circumstances the crime could not have risen above murder in the second degree, the maximum penalty for which is fixed usually at twenty years. In view of this fact and of the uniformly good behavior of the prisoner while in the penitentiary a full pardon is granted.

### Morgan Will Pay Off Early.

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—J. P. Morgan & Co. to-day notified the shareholders of the various companies and corporations for which they act as fiscal agents that they would anticipate October interest and coupon payments next Monday, two days in advance of the required time. These payments, it is estimated, will approximate $14,000,000. The action is taken to relieve existing financial conditions.

### Dividend From Steel Trust.

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—The United States Steel Corporation announced to-day that it would mail checks to-morrow for the quarterly dividend on its common stock, due September 30, and that the checks would be payable September 29. The sum of the quarterly dividend is $5,083,025 and that sum will be released to the money market.

# DESERT'S LURE ENTICES MEN INTO DANGER

## Miners Rushing for Death Valley's Niter Beds.

### Hear Marvelous Tales of the Vastness of the Deposits.

### Capitalists Equip Formidable Expeditions to Explore New Field.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

DAGGETT, Sept. 26.—Discoveries of vast deposits of niter in Death Valley have started a rush to that desolate region. Dozens of expeditions, fitted out by capitalists, and hundreds of miners are leaving Daggett, Borate, Randsburg and Mojave for the valley. Already there are more than 400 men waiting at Ballarat for information as to which portion of the terrible desert is the best to rush to.

The niter deposits are described by the discoverers as being of such extent as to rival, if not surpass, those of Chile. So far their real range is not known, but many square miles have been examined by the prospectors. In this regard it is safe to say that there are millions of dollars' worth of the much-sought mineral in sight. This means that there are billions of dollars' worth of it in Death Valley.

EXTENT OF THE DEPOSITS.

The deposits that have been discovered are located from 130 to 145 miles from Daggett, 110 to 130 miles from Randsburg and 45 to 70 miles from Ballarat. They extend over a territory more than twenty-five miles long and fifteen miles wide.

No water can be found in the vicinity of the niter, Furnace Creek, thirty-five miles distant, being the nearest point to the niter beds at which water can be obtained. Shafts have been sunk in the niter beds from five to forty-five feet without encountering any moisture. These shafts are in niter from the surface down.

The closest and most convenient point to the deposits is Ballarat, from which place water must be carried. By way of Ballarat the distance to the new Tarapaca is between 105 and 130 miles from the railroad, the terminus of the nearest line being Johannisburg. It is apparent that Ballarat will be the outfitting place for most of the "rushers."

POOR MAN'S CHANCE SLIGHT.

Those who have so far made claims to the niter beds are poor men. "Borax King" Smith, Lord Humphreys and Millionaire Singleton are the capitalists who have taken the keenest interest in the finds, but they have as yet made no claims. All these capitalists are now engaged in fitting out expeditions to look for niter and locate claims. They are sparing no expense in getting the expeditions ready and are losing no time. As great outlays of cash are required to send out exploring parties it is likely that the poor man's chances will dwindle as the rush grows stronger.

Nearly one hundred men are being sent into Death Valley by "Borax King" Smith and Lord Humphreys. The expense attached to their operations will approximate $250,000.

According to those who understand the situation there will be a stampede to Death Valley during the coming winter and the excitement will be as great as that which followed oil and gold discoveries. Certainly the preparations that are being made warrant the belief that a boom is approaching for the Death Valley region and the niter fever may become national.

### MARITIME CONVENTION ADOPTS A SALVAGE LAW

HAMBURG, Sept. 26.—The fifth conference of the International Maritime Convention, which opened yesterday, to-day discussed and adopted the draft of a treaty relative to a uniform law for collisions and maritime salvage in the proposed code. The distinction between salvage and assistance is abolished and all successful services rendered to a ship in peril are given the right to equitable remuneration. The sum is to be paid for successful services only and cannot exceed the value of the salved property. Persons who co-operate against the express prohibition of the captain of the ship in peril are barred from all right to remuneration and the authorities who fix the compensation are to proceed on the basis of the efforts and merits of those who have rendered assistance, the danger incurred by the vessel assisted, the success obtained and the value of the salved objects. Every contract made in time of peril may be modified in its effect by the judge if he considers that the remuneration agreed upon is not equitable.

Collisions between ships of war and ships of the mercantile marine are not subject to the proposed treaty, save in so far as responsibility is admitted by the law of particular states. Perhaps the most significant change proposed is that which relieves the judge of the obligation toward a fixed indemnity represented by a quota of the goods saved or their value. The conference subsequently decided to submit two treaties approved by the conference to some government to be selected by the presiding board, with the request that this government approach other governments with a view to the adoption of the treaties.

# PONTIFICAL BULL WILL EXPLAIN GUIDI'S TASK

## Delegate to Philippines to Reorganize the Hierarchy of the Archipelago.

ROME, Sept. 26.—The publication of a pontifical bull on the apostolic constitution of the Philippines is imminent. It will indicate the general object and aims of Archbishop Guidi's mission to Manila. The apostolic delegate will have to reorganize the whole ecclesiastical hierarchy of the archipelago, and will create new dioceses and will propose prelates for the archbishopric of Manila and the remaining bishoprics, after which he will convoke a synod to establish rules for governing ecclesiastical affairs in harmony with the customs of the islands as is done in South America.

Archbishop Guidi is animated by the most liberal ideas regarding the settlement of the Philippine questions. In his letter to Governor Taft he said he was glad he had been chosen to co-operate with him in the pacification of the islands and hoped to be able to count on his assistance.

DISTINGUISHED PRELATE WHO GOES TO THE PHILIPPINES AS PAPAL DELEGATE AND WILL REARRANGE THE ECCLESIASTICAL HIERARCHY OF ARCHIPELAGO AND ESTABLISH SEMINARIES.

SEMINARIES AT MANILA.

One of the first projects of the Archbishop is the establishment at Manila of two seminaries to educate the native clergy, which are destined ultimately to replace the foreigners. These seminaries will be intrusted to a religious order which has not hitherto been repressnted in the archipelago.

A portion of the students of the seminaries will be sent to Rome to complete their education, either at the North American or South American colleges or in a special Filipino college, if it is found practicable to establish the latter.

The discussion regarding the friars which was the subject of negotiations between the vatican and Governor Taft might, it is suggested, be solved without recourse to the recall of the friars by "opening the doors in the Philippines to all the clergy of all the religious orders, without distinction of nationality, thus quickly overshadowing the few hundreds of Spanish friars remaining there."

REORGANIZATION OF CHURCH.

The reorganization of the church in the Philippines on a new basis will be carried out with funds from the sale of the agricultural lands belonging to the friars and from the indemnity which the United States will pay for war damages. The idea of having recourse to arbitration in order to determine the amounts of these funds has been dropped, and it is suggested that the clergy submit estimates, which, unless immediately acceptable to the Philippine and American governments, shall form a basis for negotiation between Governor Taft and Archbishop Guidi.

It is proposed that the friars shall sell their shares of the lands possessed by the corporations and that the payment be in Mexican dollars, the first installment to be paid when the title deeds to the Philippine ecclesiastical buildings are transferred.

It is also proposed that disputes regarding charitable or educational trusts be amicably settled by Archbishop Guidi and Governor Taft.

# IMPOSING PETITION FOR THE SLAYER OF YOUNG MILLIONAIRE

### Friends of Frank Hamilton Are Trying to Secure His Release.

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 26.—Arrangements were completed to-night for the presentation to-morrow to the Board of Pardons of an imposing petition for the release of Frank Hamilton, the former newspaper man now serving a seven-year term in the Stillwater penitentiary for killing Leonard Day, a young millionaire.

Day was stabbed during an early morning brawl in the West Hotel, and for a time doubt was felt as to whether Hamilton or another member of the party had given the fatal thrust. At the time of the trial many intimations developed of a scandal which was never disclosed but which led to the suspicion that the real motive for the affray had not been fully told. Hamilton has wealthy relatives in the East. He came here from Denver, where he had served as sporting editor of several papers.

# RAILWAY SUPPLY COMPANIES FORMING A GIGANTIC TRUST

### Manufacturers Are Uniting With Capital of Forty Millions.

CHICAGO, Sept. 26.—A combination of manufacturers of practically all articles of railway equipment from car roofs to springs, doors and brake shoes and beams, is being formed through the efforts of Charles F. Quincy of this city, president of the Q. & C. Company, manufacturers of railway equipments. The trust will have a capital of $40,000,000. It is practically certain that Chicago will be chosen as the headquarters, with branch offices in all the principal cities throughout the United States.

The work on the merger has been in progress for two or three months, and just now the consolidation is being slightly delayed by the promoters' failure to agree with different managements as to the valuations to be placed on the respective properties.

The combine will include the following companies: Q. & C. Company, Chicago; Jones Car Door Company, Chicago; Security Car Door Company, Chicago; American Brake Shoe and Foundry Company, New York; Railway Steel Spring Company, New York; Standard Railway Equipment Company, St. Louis.

# QUEEN WILHELMINA HONORS AMERICAN MINISTER NEWELL

### Discusses With Great Interest Subject of Arbitration.

THE HAGUE, Sept. 26.—Queen Wilhelmina has gone to Castle Loo to spend the autumn.

At the dinner which her Majesty gave last night to the members of the American-Mexican Arbitration Court, United States Minister Newell, the Mexican Minister, and the Foreign Minister, Dr. Van Lynden, Newell occupied the place of honor on the Queen's right. She conversed in the most friendly and most animated manner with him and the other guests and discussed with great interest the subject of arbitration, showing general appreciation of the work of the international court now in session here.

# LOST OR LIES BADLY INJURED IN THE WOODS

## Futile Search for Mayor Humes of Seattle.

### Goes Hunting With Son and Fails to Return to Camp.

### Two Days Pass Without Any Trace of Missing Man Being Found.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SEATTLE, Sept. 26.—Mayor Thomas J. Humes is either lost in the thick woods or underbrush on the west side of Squawk Slough, an arm of Lake Washington, or has been injured and unable to make his way back to his camp.

In company with his son, Jay Humes, the Mayor started on a hunting expedition at 3:30 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, promising to meet Jay within an hour after they separated near the water's edge. Jay Humes kept the appointment, but no trace of the Mayor has been found since the time the two hunters separated. As Mayor Humes is an experienced woodsman and an old-time hunter, who would not wander away to keep his friends in suspense, it is feared some serious accident—perhaps death—has overtaken him.

As much as the weather has permitted, Jay and Samuel Humes, sons of the Mayor, and James Humes, his brother, who have been in camp with him, have been searching through the woods in the direction taken by the Mayor when he was last seen. Late yesterday afternoon this searching party was joined by several loggers, who remained at work until dark. Then the party, finding it impossible to make any progress, gave up the work for the night, Jay Humes returning to this city and the others resting along the lake front.

At 4 o'clock to-morrow morning two searching parties will leave this city for the district within which Mayor Humes is expected to be found.

PARTING OF FATHER AND SON.

Mayor Humes and his party have been camping on the east shore of Squawk Slough, about one-third of a mile above the point where it meets the lake. A few days ago the Mayor killed two small bears on the west side, and, believing that it would be possible to find the mother, he decided on Wednesday to make the venture.

Jay Humes arranged to accompany his father, and the two were taken across the slough by Samuel Humes, who, it was agreed, should proceed to Bothel and procure a quantity of lumber needed for the erection of a small cabin near the camp ground. Later he was to return for the hunters.

The two hunters were landed, one proceeding up the ravine, while the other mounted the brow of the hill and hunted along the ridge to the point where a sharp declivity leads down into the ravine again. Mayor Humes decided to follow the trail. He was armed with a rifle, while Jay Humes carried a shotgun. During the time young Humes followed the ravine to the point where he was to have met his father he did not fire a shot nor did he hear the report of firing in any direction. He arrived at the meeting place, but there was no trace of the Mayor.

Jay Humes remained for half an hour or more, calling and shooting to attract his father's attention. No response was given, and, finally, he hastened to the water again to meet Samuel Humes, who had returned from Bothel to carry the two hunters back to camp. There was no trace of Mayor Humes at that point. Both boys shouted and fired into the air to attract the attention of any one within sound. Through the entire night they searched the woods.

SUMMON AID FROM CITY.

At daybreak they hurried to the water's edge, and with the boat crossed to the camp. Samuel Humes was sent to the city late this afternoon to summon aid. Late to-night Jay Humes walked to the city to prepare to re-enter the hunt again to-morrow morning.

Experienced woodsmen and friends of the Mayor differ in their opinions relative to his probable safety. That he has at least met with some accident is the general belief. From the fact that Jay Humes heard no shots during the time he was proceeding up the ravine to join his father at the proposed meeting place it is argued an accidental discharge of Mayor Humes' gun could not have caused him injury.

A theory advanced by Samuel Humes, who knows his father's habits while hunting, is that he may have fallen from a log into a deep cut or windfall. It is feared that if he endeavored to cross a cut on a log he would have slipped and fallen to the bottom, either breaking some of his limbs or meeting with a more serious accident. The searching party expects to find this theory true.

### Mayor's Salary Is Cut Off.

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 26.—Mayor Ames was cut off the September payroll by the City Council to-night, despite the advice of the City Attorney that the absent executive is entitled to his salary. Mayor Ames tendered his resignation some time ago, but it has not been acted upon. He is under indictment on several bribery charges.

# AWFUL HAVOC DUE TO FLOOD AND CYCLONE

## Hundreds of Lives Are Lost in Sicily.

### Marine Waterspout Is Followed by an Inundation.

### Storm Extends 124 Miles and Everything in Its Path Is Destroyed.

LONDON, Sept. 26.—A dispatch from Rome to-day announces that a severe cyclone has swept over Catania, a city on the east coast of Sicily. Catania is flooded and many houses, including the Villa Bellani, are damaged. The roads have suffered seriously. The cyclone also wrought havoc at Modica, a town of Sicily, where several persons were killed. Mount Aetna shows further signs of activity and the volcano of Stromboli is still active.

A dispatch from Syracuse, Sicily, says that the stream flowing through Modica, swollen by the recent terrific storm, suddenly overflowed, inundated the town and that several houses collapsed and a number of families perished. The country in the vicinity of Modica is flooded and the prefect, with a large force of troops, has started for that place in order to render assistance to the sufferers.

FOUR HUNDRED PERISH.

Cyclone and Torrents Cause Fearful Havoc on Island.

SYRACUSE, Sicily, Sept. 26.—For twenty-four hours before the cyclone burst over the island a violent storm raged on the eastern coast of Sicily. The path of the cyclone was 124 miles long and everything in the line of the storm was destroyed. The sea swept inland for several kilometers, doing enormous damage. Along the railroad from Catania to Palermo the force of the cyclone was such that rails were torn up and hurled to a great distance.

It is reported from Modica, thirty-two miles southwest of Syracuse, that a hundred bodies have already been found, but that the number of dead bodies swept away by the torrent is unknown.

The newspaper Fractissa expresses the belief that some 400 people have been killed.

The torrent destroyed everything on the ground floors in houses in the lower portions of Modica. Bridges have disappeared, the damage amounting to many million lire. (A lire is worth about 20 cents.)

The survivors of the catastrophe have taken refuge in the hills. A relief committee and search parties have been organized at Modica. The disaster is supposed to have been due to a marine waterspout.

The German steamer Caprera was wrecked at Catania after a terrible struggle with the waves.

A large portion of the low lying part of Modica has been destroyed.

Two torrents, the St. Frances and the St. Marie, which descend through the town, rose suddenly and brought with them masses of mud and heavy stones and invaded the buildings of Modica. They carried away everything in their course. Many houses were utterly wrecked and others were seriously damaged. Numerous animals perished. The number of victims is still unknown, but eighty corpses have been deposited in a single church. At Soicli twelve persons were killed. Tagearo was destroyed. Enormous damage was done at Palazzo, Acreido, Farla and Geratana.

### TRANSFER OF THE BIG BEND TUNNEL INTERESTS

Western Power Company Acquires the Valuable Holdings in Butte County.

OROVILLE, Sept. 26.—An assignment of an indenture and bond executed by the Big Bend Tunnel Company to Frank McLaughlin, whereby Guy C. Earl, Frank McLaughlin and Milton J. Green transfer their interests in that instrument to the Western Power Company, was to-day filed in the office of the Recorder of Butte County. The assignment is attached to the original bond that was given to McLaughlin by the Big Bend Company, and shows that the purchase price of the property is $500,000. A $10,000 payment was made upon the execution of the instrument and the balance to complete the purchase is to be paid in March and April, 1903.

The Big Bend tunnel was dug for the purpose of turning a large portion of the bed of the North Fork of the Feather River from its natural channel, with a view of mining therein. The venture did not prove a success from a mining point of view, but the value of the property for power purposes in the generating of electricity has of late attracted considerable attention. An arrangement was made some months ago for the erection of a large power plant and the transmission of electricity to San Francisco, but the death of Charles L. Fair, one of the projectors, it is understood, blocked proceedings to a certain extent.

Articles of incorporation of the Western Power Company were filed in the office of the County Clerk at this place several days ago. The capital stock of the concern is $5,000,000.