

A LITTLE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS MAIN IN ISSUES WITH VENEZUELA

American Consul in Vain Tries to Prevent Bombardment of the Forts.

Warships Open Fire While He Is Bearing to Them an Apology From Castro.

Continued From Page 1, Column 1.

tain G. P. Davison, lay at Puerto Cabello flying the British flag, after having discharged her cargo.

When Puerto Cabello last Wednesday was boiling with excitement over the drastic action of the German and British Ministers and naval force, a rabble of natives boarded the Topaze as she lay in the harbor, arrested her captain and crew, pillaged the vessel and subjected the British flag to taunts and insults. The imprisoned sailors were afterward released and they had returned to their ship when the Charybdis and Vineta steamed into Puerto Cabello yesterday morning.

Captain Davison of the Topaze immediately boarded the Charybdis and stated his aversion to her command who mustered a force of fifty marines and put them aboard the tramp collier to protect her from further indignity.

The Puerto Cabello populace, noting the disembarking of marines from the English warship, believed the allies contemplated an immediate landing in force and the Venezuelan garrison hurried to arms and flocked to the shore.

The United States Consul took a boat and boarded the Charybdis to inquire as to the intentions of the ships of war. The English commodore commanding the Charybdis informed him that the naval vessels had visited Puerto Cabello in search of Venezuelan ships of war, and the Consul went ashore satisfied.

Meantime the British commander had sent an officer ashore bearing a message to the port authorities, the purport of which was that an apology and satisfaction for the attack on the Topaze must be made immediately. The English ultimatum added that unless such reparation were made within two hours, the penalty would be an immediate bombardment of the fortress and the custom-house of the port. The two warships cleared for action and took up their positions within easy range of the port defenses.

At the expiration of the allotted time the Charybdis opened fire, followed by the German cruiser Vineta and from five until nearly six o'clock in the afternoon they maintained a continuous bombardment from their main batteries.

The warships then steamed away, arriving their forenoon at La Guaira. Advices from Puerto Cabello state that the bombardment was unnecessarily precipitate. The local authorities, on receiving the ultimatum from the Charybdis, immediately advised President Castro of the situation. He replied instructing the chief local authority to lose no time in making proper apology and giving assurance of adequate reparation for the outrage to the dignity of the British flag.

President Castro's message was not received until forty-five minutes past four o'clock yesterday afternoon and before the United States Consul, who was commissioned to carry the reply aboard the warship, could get away on his errand to the Charybdis, the hour of five o'clock struck and the two ships instantly opened fire.

The bombardment was directed chiefly against Fort Solano and Castle Libertador. Both forts replied with a desultory fire, but were unable to sustain it under the German and British shells poured upon them by the warships' batteries.

After the forts had been silenced, the cruiser Charybdis landed a force of marines and bluejackets, who took possession of Castle Libertador after meeting minimal resistance and made prisoner of its commander. None of the garrison of the fort or castle were killed.

The entrance to the inside harbor of Puerto Cabello is through a channel not more than a few hundred feet wide. To the left of this channel as one enters the harbor, situated on a low sandspit, is the fortress which was bombarded by the German and British cruisers. It is an old-fashioned structure which was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. Its sides are comparatively low and would offer but poor resistance to modern shells. It is not probable that the Venezuelan Government had any modern cannon there.

The custom-house in Puerto Cabello is situated on the right, or mainland, side of the channel. It is a long two-story brick building and contains, besides executive offices, large warehouses. Steamers discharging at Puerto Cabello tie up immediately in front of the custom-house. The town itself is flat and stretches from the water front inland to the base of the hills a distance of two or three miles. The outside harbor of Puerto Cabello is hardly more than a large bay, offering comparatively little protection to shipping. The inside harbor is very secure and quite commodious.

GIVE NOTICE OF BLOCKADE.

Fleet's Commanders Warn Venezuelan Ships to Stay in Port.

CARACAS, Saturday, Dec. 13.—A note from the commanders of the allied fleet, which the Venezuelan Government refused to receive yesterday at La Guaira, was sent to-day to United States Minister Bowen and forwarded by him to the proper Government officials here. The note, which is in the name of Great Britain and Germany, requests all Venezuelan ships after the lapse of five days to refrain from sailing from the port of La Guaira until the present difficulties are ended.

The question: What right have Great Britain and Germany to coerce Venezuela without declaring a blockade? is being asked on all sides here.

"El Moché" Hernandez and certain other revolutionary leaders left Maracaibo yesterday for Caracas by the United States steamer, Hernandez is probably the most popular of the revolutionary leaders. President Castro has kept him imprisoned at Maracaibo for several years past.

The news of the shelling of the fortress and custom-house at Puerto Cabello this afternoon by the British cruiser Charybdis and the German cruiser Vineta, reached Caracas at a late hour to-night. It caused much excitement, and, in spite of the preventive measures taken by the police of Puerto Cabello, trouble is feared at that port.

The arrival of the United States gunboat Marietta at La Guaira yesterday was due to a rumor that United States Minister Bowen was in danger. There has been no ground for such a rumor, and the presence of the Marietta was not requested by Bowen.

The situation here continues to be critical and there is much excitement

among the German residents of Caracas, many of whom have called at the American legation to seek refuge.

The people of Caracas are astonished that the Government in Washington remains silent in spite of the recent act of the allied fleet.

The enlistment of Venezuelan soldiers continues. Two thousand men from the interior reached Caracas to-day. The boycotting of British and German goods continues. Ninety Germans living in the country have offered to support the Venezuelan Government against Germany.

The fact that the people of Venezuela are in absolute ignorance of the designs of the allies upon their country creates a deep and disturbing impression here. The chief officer of President Castro's guard said to-day:

"If there is to be war let us know and we will fight. If there is to be only an assault on our coast, where we cannot reach the allies, the only thing left for us to do is to declare that to destroy our debtor's furniture is a strange way to force the payment of his obligation. I believe this situation will soon come within the scope of the Monroe doctrine." The British legation here was re-opened to-night under the American flag by W. W. Russell, secretary of the American legation.

CASTRO MAKES BITTER SPEECH Says Two Great Nations Are Acting Like Savages.

CARACAS, Dec. 14.—The populace thronged the streets to-day and patriotic demonstrations continued far into the night. An immense crowd, whose numbers are estimated at more than 10,000, gathered in front of the presidential palace and called on President Castro to appear. Some of the orators among the crowd having advocated reprisals against the foreigners resident in Venezuela, President Castro, in rage at the suggestion, refused the demands made in the following speech:

Citizens, the size of nations, like the size of men, is measured only by their acts. Those born brave prove their valor on the battlefield, not against defenseless citizens, who perhaps are innocent, are in their hearts with us, and who are ashamed of the infamy of their compatriots.

We will seek prisoners for Venezuelan jails on the battlefield. Our action will be directed only against those who come against us, and who are ashamed of the infamy of their compatriots. We will seek prisoners for Venezuelan jails on the battlefield. Our action will be directed only against those who come against us, and who are ashamed of the infamy of their compatriots.

The speech was applauded and a procession of whites and negroes traversed the city without an act of violence being committed.

The President is calm and is giving all his time to the organization of resistance. Fourteen hundred men enlisted to-day from Caracas alone, including boys and fifteen priests.

The conduct of the British and German commanders is severely censured by all of the European colonies. Alfred Blohm, the banker, who went to La Guaira and saw the commanders of the British and German cruisers, said he did not hesitate to board the German cruiser Vineta to tell him that the conduct of the German legation in this question had been shameful, and that the matter could have been arranged by Herr von Pilgrim-Baltazzi had only seen President Castro, who, like the German colony, was ignorant of Germany's design.

WASHINGTON GIVES WARNING.

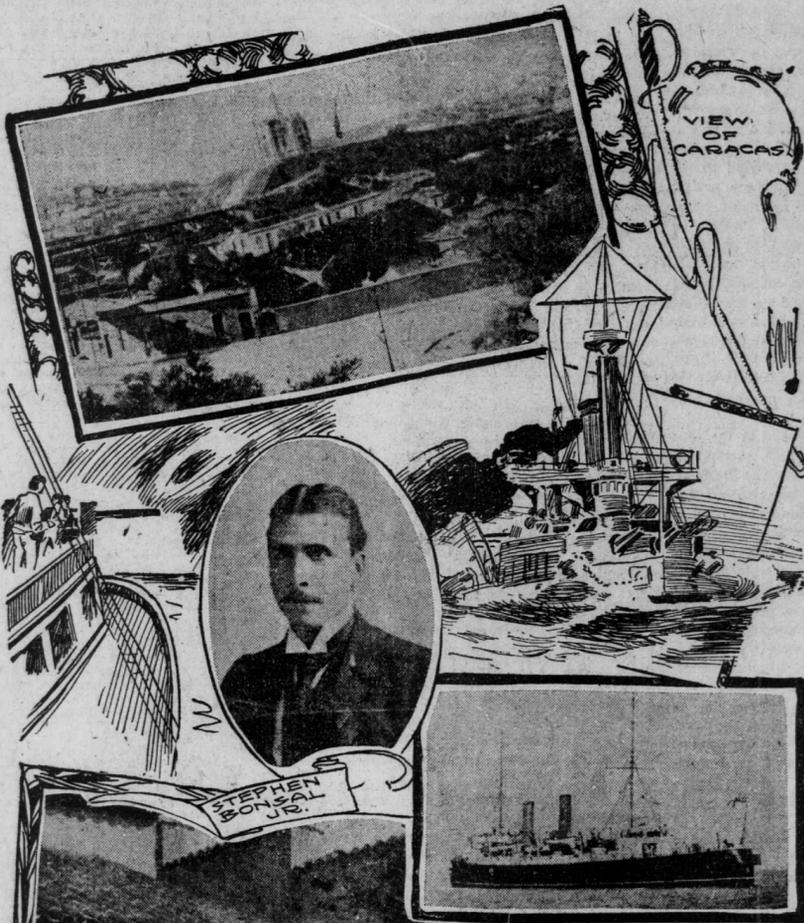
Great Britain and Germany Must Not Go Too Far in Venezuela.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Representations were made by the State Department to-day to the German and English Governments in the matter of the peaceful blockade now being enforced by those Governments in Venezuelan waters. Secretary Hay took the dispatches from Minister Bowen announcing the Puerto Cabello bombardment to the White House during the day and discussed the situation in Venezuela for some time with the President.

In the matter of the blockade the Secretary has instructed our Embassadors in Berlin and London to represent to those Governments that the United States must not be understood as giving its consent to any extension of the international right of peaceful blockade. It is not known that this instruction was called forth by any incident making such representation necessary. It was made simply as a precautionary measure and gives the attitude of this Government should any development arise making its position a matter of importance.

It was confidently hoped that before this time the news of the shelling of the fortress and custom-house at Puerto Cabello had been received from the German and British Governments to President Castro's request that the claims of those Governments be submitted to arbitration. This request was transmitted from Caracas by Minister Bowen during the latter days of last week and in turn was handed to the embassies of Germany and Great Britain at this capital. Secretary Hay has not received any reply.

The visit of President Castro to the bedside of the wife of the German diplomatic representative in Caracas created a good impression here, as it did at that place, whereas the bombardment of Puerto Cabello made an equally unfavorable one. It is regretted that the commanders of the German and British vessels should have found it necessary to resort to such a severe step as the bombardment of the city for an act for which satisfaction might have been obtained in a more peaceful manner. The greatest fear is that such acts will result in inflaming the minds of the Venezuelans, who naturally are of an impetuous nature, and that retaliation may follow in assaults on foreign residents in Venezuela.



NOTED WAR CORRESPONDENT AND SCENES AT THE SEAT OF HOSTILITIES.

Argentina and Chile May Become Allies of Venezuela.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CARACAS, Dec. 14.—That Argentina and Chile may declare themselves in sympathy with Venezuela and even become her active allies in the pending crisis is a contingency that appears more than possible in the light of to-day's developments.

The Call correspondent has learned on reliable authority that the Government of Argentina, in a dispatch from Buenos Ayres, has instructed its consular representative to report to Buenos Ayres as early as possible what appears to be the collection of claims I am informed that the Government of Argentina, feeling the autonomy of all South American states is jeopardized, is prepared to take a decided stand by the side of Venezuela and to offer her assistance to President Castro. Argentina is not anxious to declare her attitude, and will do so, it is said, only in the event that the United States should maintain a complaisant attitude of non-interference.

It is believed also that Chile entertains similar views, and many official cable messages have been exchanged yesterday and to-day between the official representatives of the Venezuelan Government and those of the Chilean republic in Valparaiso, as well as with Buenos Ayres.

Most of the morning papers consider that the bombardment of the fortress at Puerto Cabello puts all likelihood of arbitration or any pacific settlement of the difficulty entirely out of the question, and they begin to talk seriously of the difficulty of enforcing payment of the demands should President Castro decide to defy the powers and retire to the interior of the country.

Realizing that a prolonged blockade or hostilities would endanger the interests and perhaps the lives of foreign residents of Venezuela many newspapers are beginning to ask whether the Government has not acted over-hastily.

CENTREVILLE, Md., Dec. 14.—The business portion of this city was devastated by fire early to-day, entailing a loss of about \$150,000.

STAFF OF FAMOUS CORRESPONDENTS TO REPORT VENEZUELAN HOSTILITIES FOR THE CALL AND HERALD BUREAU

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Although The Call-Herald correspondents in Venezuela and at Port of Spain and other South American and West Indian points have been doing admirable service since the Anglo-German-Venezuelan affair began and have scored "beats" each day, The Call and Herald, in addition to their services, have thought it best to send some of the staff men to the front. Accordingly Stephen Bonsal and Nicholas Biddle are now on their way to Venezuela. Bonsal is a noted magazine writer and has ably represented The Call and Herald in China, Cuba, South America, the Philippines and other countries in times of crisis.

Biddle is one of the best of the Herald's staff and has been through more than one Venezuelan and South American revolution. He is well acquainted with South American people and affairs.

In addition to these men, W. S. Meriweather, a Herald staff man and one of the best naval writers in the United States, is with the American fleet in Caribbean waters.

Washington Officials Growing Anxious

War May Lead to Serious Complications

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CALL BUREAU, 1406 G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—It is impossible to ignore the growing shade of gravity in official circles as the news from Venezuela grows steadily worse and worse. As a general thing the dispatches from Minister Bowen follow the dispatches in The Call.

Two cables were received from Minister Bowen to-day. One arrived at 2:20 o'clock this morning and described the situation as "much quieter." Mr. Bowen explained that the great excitement which had been reported previously had been due to the flight of German and British diplomats, to the arrest of subjects of Great Britain and Germany in Venezuela and to the seizure of Venezuelan ships of war without a declaration of war or a blockade.

"Everybody fears a bombardment." Mr. Bowen had evidently gauged the prospect of a bombardment by what he understood the temper of the foreign naval commanders to be. How well his fears of a bombardment were founded were shown in his second cable, which said:

"Have just received news from President Castro that the British and German warships are bombarding Puerto Cabello."

No official could be found who would comment on the news that the allies had begun the bombardment of the Venezuelan port. It was simply regarded as another unexpected event tending to commit the aggressive powers more deeply than ever to a policy which they may have difficulty in abandoning with good grace to themselves.

The Call's news from Venezuela that the clerical party had joined forces with President Castro and that Chile and Argentina would offer Venezuela assistance if the United States did not intervene under the Monroe doctrine, also was commented on by officials. They regarded this as likely to have a great tendency to encourage the national spirit of Venezuela.

So far there is no sign of any inclination on the part of the admirals to make any shift whatever in its policy of doing all it can to mitigate the difficulties of the situation and bring about an amicable adjustment.

England, having been induced to aid Germany to pull a very hot chestnut out of the fire, shows a disposition to go as far as the Kaiser. Venezuela, having ignored diplomatic intercourse in the adjustment of debts and having already suffered at the hands of the allies in preparing for war on land, and is evidently ready at this moment to give the invaders a bloody reception.

The question that everybody is asking outside of the "inner" circles is: "How long will the United States permit a state of affairs rapidly growing into a relentless punitive warfare to go on without protest?"

"No answer that can be obtained to this is: 'We must await developments. Our only proper concern seems to be to see that the Monroe doctrine is not violated. If it should be there will be no objection as to our course of procedure. Should a crisis arise which would seem to indicate no way out for the foreign Governments save an attempt to infringe the Monroe doctrine we might be disposed to call a halt or ask for a further explanation, but that condition has not arisen yet.'"

Incredibly was expressed in official circles to-day over the reported denial by the British and German Governments of any offer of arbitration had been received through the United States. The offer certainly was sent, and why both Governments should permit denials of its reception to go out is a mystery. There is no doubt that the denials were intended for a bloody and bootless struggle.

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pletion, Nervous Debility, Head-
aches, Intestine or Con-

stipation, Stomach Troubles, Loss of

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UNITED STATES BRANCH.

STATEMENT

OF THE

CONDITION AND AFFAIRS

OF THE

HAMBURG BREMEN

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF HAMBURG, GERMANY, ON THE 31ST

day of December, A. D. 1901, and for

the year ending on that date, as shown to the

Commissioners of the State of California,

pursuant to the provisions of sections

410 and 411 of the Political Code, condensed

as per blank furnished by the Commission-

ASSETS.

Cash Market Value of all Stocks

and Bonds owned by Company \$1,352,025 00

Amount of Loans secured by pledge

of Bonds, Stocks and other mar-

ketable securities as collateral 30,000 00

Premiums in due course of Collec-

tion 83,214 90

Total Assets 1,465,240 90

LIABILITIES.

Losses adjusted and unpaid \$14,663 00

Losses in process of Adjustment or

in Suspension 98,200 00

Losses resisted, including expenses

of defense 20,100 00

Gross premiums on Fire Risks run-

ning one year or less, \$1,000,000

150 per cent. reinsurance 80 per cent. 827,579 30

Gross premiums on Fire Risks run-

ning more than one year, \$1,000,000

330 per cent. reinsurance pro rata 378,078 30

Commissions and Brokerage due

and to become due 35,271 18

Total Liabilities \$1,240,313 98

INCOME.

Net cash actually received for

Fire Premiums \$1,434,863 23

Received for interest and dividends

on Stocks, Bonds, etc., and

from all other sources 51,813 91

Total Income \$1,486,677 43

EXPENDITURES.

Net amount paid for Fire Losses

(including \$40,120 54, losses of

previous years) 890,325 13

Paid or allowed for Commission 270,433 05

Brokerage 121,238 00

Paid for State, National and Local

taxes, etc., and other 39,551 65

All other payments and expendi-

tures 88,334 12

Total Expenditures \$1,410,917 95

Reserve Fund \$65,759 48

Losses incurred during the year 897,780 13

Risks and Premiums/Fire Risks. Premiums.

Net amount of Risks written during the

year \$130,890,500 \$1,708,302 45