

PANAMA DISCOVERS A PLOT

LIFE OF GENERAL HUERTAS IS THREATENED.

Four Army Officials From Colombia Charged With Trying to Persuade Garrison at Panama to Revolt—Were Promptly Apprehended—They Declare It is Spite Work.

Through a letter the Panama government has discovered what is alleged to have been a plot against the life of General Huertas, commander in chief of the forces of the republic of Panama, and an effort on the part of army officials to persuade the garrison at Panama to revolt. If such a plot really existed it was promptly nipped in the bud by the apprehension at Panama of four alleged conspirators, who were immediately brought under guard to Colon and shipped hence to Port Limon.

The prisoners were all born in the interior of Colombia, and have been on the isthmus for years. They were members of the Colombian battleship which gave its support to the new government when the republic was formed, and which was commanded by General Huertas. They all took the oath of allegiance to the new republic and continued to serve in the army. One of them is a colonel named Ferrol, two are majors, and the fourth is the adjutant of General Huertas.

They declare that the charge that they were engaged in a conspiracy is the work of personal enemies, and that some Colombian who was deported from the isthmus immediately after the establishment of the republic November 3, sent a letter from Port Limon addressed to Colonel Ferrol. The communication was written in terms implicating them in such a plot. At the same time, they say, the writer advised some of the officials at Panama to secure and read the letter addressed to Colonel Ferrol before it was delivered to him. This was done either last night or this morning. The four persons were arrested this morning at the barracks and lodged in jail. This afternoon they were conveyed to the railway station, where they were placed on board a train bound for Colon.

According to their statement, they were not allowed to make any explanation. The writer of the letter, they say, may have been prompted by a desire to injure them because they turned Panamains, or the whole plot may have been concocted in Panama in order to get them out of the country because, as Colombians, they were disliked here. They do not dare go to Colombia, where, they assert, they will be treated as traitors. The government will pay their passage to Port Limon. They are entirely without funds and have no means of earning a living, but they express the hope that ultimately they will be permitted to return to the isthmus.

Upon arriving here the prisoners were placed in jail. The reports in circulation that they attempted to assassinate General Huertas are not true. Nevertheless, the government doubtless had some evidence against them to justify the step of deporting them.

COUNTRY'S CREDIT.

Bankers Say Our Debts Are Diminishing.

A large portion of Wall street is just now trying to figure out how large a credit balance this country is piling up abroad and how much gold we may count on getting from other countries in the near future. This, of course, has more or less of a bearing on the amount of available funds for business and speculative purposes. For two years we were in reality running behind because of our enormous borrowings abroad, although we actually had a large trade balance in our operations with other countries. But bankers practically agree that we have discharged all of our indebtedness created in Europe by syndicates—at one time estimated at upwards of \$3,000,000,000—and now we are rapidly piling up a credit balance.

A factor that helped to rapidly wipe out our credit in the past, up to a recent date, was the continued liquidation of our securities by foreigners. It is now believed that the selling is over. For a week Europe has been a considerable buyer of our securities and one foreign banker expressed the opinion that after declines off and on for a year and a half in our stocks Europe stood ready to take back quite a good many at the present low level. He said that sentiment there was much improved toward all investments and he predicted a fair recovery of our stock market, though not anything approaching a boom.

The \$2,142,207 worth of platinum extracted in the Gorotiadogaski district of Russia last year is practically the world's supply of that metal.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Chelan county will exhibit at the St. Louis exposition.

C. W. Frick, an old and respected citizen of Spangle, died recently.

Wheat is nearly all in market around Govan. The crop has been quite satisfactory.

The Washington State Game & Fish Protective association has been organized in Seattle.

Farm work has been stopped in the Palouse country because of hard freezing of the ground at nights.

W. A. C. second team, 11; University of Idaho second team, 0. This represents a good game in Pullman Saturday.

Milton Klepper, a freshman, won first prize in the annual declamation contest at the Washington Agricultural college Saturday night.

The destruction of the home of Geo. Wright, at Whatcom, by fire recently caused the death of one child and the perhaps fatal injury of another.

As a result of the strike of the plumbers for \$5.50 a day Spokane is apparently on the verge of one of the bitterest labor wars in its history.

M. L. Starr of Medical Lake was run over by a passenger train at Hatton last Sunday morning and had his left hand and right arm ground to a pulp.

Floyd L. Daggett and Dr. G. S. Allison were recently elected school directors for school district No. 81, embracing the city of Spokane and one outlying addition.

One of the finest church edifices in Washington was opened for public worship Sunday, when the first services were held in the auditorium of the Central Christian church at Spokane.

The case of James Champoux, who 13 months ago, in Seattle, killed Lotie Brace in a fit of jealousy, has been affirmed. Champoux's defense was insanity, but he was convicted of murder in the first degree and must hang.

The steamers Flyer, Bellingham and Dode, all Sound vessels, were in a collision in the bay at Seattle last Sunday. The Flyer had a large hole torn in her portside abreast of the engine. Fifteen thousand dollars will probably cover all damage.

Building operations during the year 1903 in Spokane will aggregate nearly \$3,500,000 in actual cost, independent of street railway construction, public works, machinery installed or buildings projected for future construction.

Tom Fitzgerald, aged 66, a railroad laborer, was found almost dead in a boxcar recently. He cut his throat with a razor and crawled into the car, where he lay four days. He will probably recover. Fitzgerald is from Missoula, Mont. He was despondent.

With solemn yet simple ceremonies, the members of Spokane Lodge, No. 228, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Sunday held their annual lodge of sorrow, in memory of their departed brethren. The services were held in the Auditorium theater, and the crowd packed the house. Many people remained standing throughout the ceremonies.

Rudolph Butzaw, a stenographer in the employ of M. E. & E. T. Hay, was drowned in a lake about seven miles south of Wilbur Sunday afternoon. Butzaw was skating with a party of friends when he went through the thin ice. Efforts to rescue him were fruitless. The body has not been recovered. Parents of the deceased live at Loda, Illinois.

The damage to the work now under way on the irrigation canal on the Yakima Indian reservation is more serious than at first anticipated. Practically all the work at the headgate will have to be done over again. The flood came at a time that nothing could be done to save it. The rise in the river covered everything to a depth of about 12 feet.

This state has fared exceptionally well with the committees assigned her delegation in the house of representatives. Congressman Jones was assigned to the rivers and harbors, Congressman Cushman to the interstate and foreign commerce and Congressman Humphreys to the merchant marine and fisheries committees. In connection with this Congressman Cushman also goes to the private land claims committee.

The Bible and the Schools.

Brooksville, Ky.—Judge James P. Harbeson of the circuit court has rendered a decision in the case where the Rev. Thomas Hackett, a Catholic priest, brought an injunction suit against the school trustees of Brooksville asking that they and the teachers in the public schools be restrained from reading the Bible or offering prayer in the schools, on the ground that it was a violation of the constitution. Judge Harbeson dismissed the petition, at the cost of the plaintiff, and in unqualified terms says that the Bible is the foundation of all Christian governments and he does not see where it is sectarian to read it in schools. An appeal was asked for and granted.

W. J. Bryan is in Paris.

DOWIE HAS SQUARED UP

BY A DIPLOMATIC STROKE HE MAKES PEACE.

His Immediate Creditors Settled With

—Others Give Reasonable Time—

—Dowie Declared Zion Estate Was

Valued at Fourteen Million Dollars

—Lace and Candy Factory Behind With Orders.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—By a stroke of diplomacy John Alexander Dowie has established harmony in Zion, its receivers and its creditors in and out of court. He proposes to settle with his immediate creditors, to arrange with others on a reasonable time basis and to end the receivership.

At a recent conference between the attorneys representing the heaviest creditors and Jacob Newman, attorney for the receivers, Dowie showed the lawyers a statement setting forth Zion's assets and liabilities. He declared he valued Zion's estate at \$14,000,000 above all liabilities. He exhibited large orders for lace and candy. He said neither the lace nor the candy factory could supply its orders. He showed an order for 75 carloads of candy from a Cincinnati firm. He showed a draft for \$50,000 from a wealthy well-wisher and declared he could draw for \$200,000 more on one of Zion's friends in Wisconsin.

On this showing he offered to settle all urgent claims in cash and to put Zion on a cash basis in all future dealings with the world. With his heaviest creditors out of the way, he said, his debts demanding immediate payment would not amount to more than \$150,000.

Mr. Dowie's presentation of figures and his offers of settlement were satisfactory to the attorneys. His plan will be submitted to the receivers, their attorneys and the creditors' attorneys and, it is said, will be accepted. In that event, the creditors will join hands with Dowie in a plea to Judge Kohlsaat to dismiss the pending litigation and permit Dowie freedom to gather funds and cancel his obligations.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

Secretary Wilson Submits His Annual to the President.

James Wilson, secretary of agriculture, has submitted his annual report to the president. In part he says:

Out of their continued abundance during the past year the farmers of the nation have contributed food and raw materials for manufactures to hundreds of millions of people in foreign countries, besides sustaining 80,000,000 at home.

Represented in value, the exports of grain and grain products had about two thirds of the importance of cotton in the last fiscal year, the value of the export being more than \$221,000,000. From 46,000,000 acres of wheat there was a surplus for foreign mouths amounting to 114,000,000 bushels and 20,000,000 barrels of flour, amounts that together represent 204,000,000 bushels of wheat.

Third in importance are the exports of meats and meat products, with a grand total of \$178,000,000, to which may be added \$35,000,000 for live animals. Quantities that are beyond the grasp of the mind represent the exports of meats and their products. The pounds of beef were 385,000,000; of pork, 551,000,000; of lard, 491,000,000, and of oleo oil, 126,000,000.

The foregoing figures, it should be borne in mind, do not stand for the total production of the farms, but for the surplus production after the wants of the people at home have been satisfied.

Election at Olympia.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 9.—In the city election here today, H. G. Richardson, republican, was elected over F. G. Blakeslee, democrat, by a vote of 479 to 469. The democrats, republicans and socialists all had complete tickets in the field, the socialists polling 42 votes. All the republican ticket was elected except the city attorney, P. M. Troy, democrat, defeating W. L. Agnew, republican, by a vote of 478 to 464.

Both Agree to Fight.

Denver, Dec. 7.—President John Mitchell of the United Mineworkers and Governor Peabody had a conference lasting 45 minutes today, and tonight the settlement of the strike is as far distant as ever. Mr. Mitchell informed the governor that the strike will continue to the bitter end, and the governor just as positively informed the strike leader that he will tolerate no violence, but will order out the troops at the first provocation.

There has died in the Kentish village of Rolvenden an old lady, 92 years of age, who was present at the battle of Waterloo.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WRITING OF "BEN-HUR."

The Greatest Play of the Century.

Few people know that it was the famous agnostic, Robert G. Ingersoll, who caused the writing of the novel "Ben-Hur," the stage version of which has created an absolute sensation, not only in this country, but in England and Australia. It came about through a chance meeting of the two famous men in a railroad journey, when Christianity became a subject of their talk. General Wallace had always been a man of strong religious inclination; indeed, his splendid description of the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem to the wise men of the desert had been written before this chance acquaintance.

The arguments and claims of the great infidel were too much for the doughty general. His senses were charmed with the eloquence and poetical presentation of the causes of agnosticism, but he was by no means convinced of its truth. The discussion made him deeply reflective and led him to make a careful and exhaustive study of the life of the Nazarine. The result of this research and General Wallace's answer to Ingersoll was "Ben-Hur," a work which has been more widely read than any printed volume save the sacred Book of Scriptures.

The entire public of the state of Washington seems to be interested in the presentation of "Ben-Hur" at the Spokane Theater, Spokane. The engagement covers December 14th, 15th and 16th, with special matinee on Tuesday, December 15th. Special rates can be secured from the railroads by applying to the local railroad agents.

Orders for seats through the mail will be promptly attended to, in the order of their receipt, when accompanied by a remittance and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply, in order to avoid all mistakes. Applications for seats should be made to Daniel L. Weaver, Manager Spokane Theater, Spokane. Seats for all performances will be securable when the sale commences. It will be well, therefore, for those who intend to take in this great entertainment, to lose no time in filing their orders, as the sale starts on Thursday, December 10th. Although there has been a heavy demand for seats, Manager Weaver wishes to announce all will be able to secure a seat who wish, as the company has extended its engagement one night. Prices range from \$3.00 to 50c.

ARMY'S STANDING.

Nearly 70,000 Men Enlisted—Net Decrease.

Washington.—On December 1, 1902, the army of the United States, according to the latest reports which had been received from the military departments, consisted of 3586 officers and 66,003 enlisted men, a total of 69,589. In addition there were in the service 3598 men of the hospital corps excluded by the act of March 1, 1887, from classification as part of the enlisted force of the army. There were also in the service 182 volunteer medical officers, 100 regular officers and 4973 enlisted men of the Philippine scouts, and 29 officers and 840 enlisted men of the Porto Rico regiment. At that time I reported an order made on the 24th of October, 1902, providing for a further reduction of the army to the minimum strength allowed by law, except as to the organizations which were to be kept at full strength for instruction purposes at Leavenworth and Riley and the legation guard at Peking. That order has been executed during the year by permitting enlistments to run out without filling the vacancies.

At the date of the last reports received from the military departments, October 15, 1903, the actual strength of the regular army was 3681 officers and 55,500 enlisted men, distributed as follows:

United States, 41,832; Philippine Islands, 15,510; Cuba, 719; Porto Rico, 212; Hawaiian Islands, 197; China, 151; Alaska, 569.

The distribution among the different branches of the service was as follows:

General officers and staff organizations, 3848; cavalry, 12,179; artillery corps, 16,470; infantry, 24,554; recruits and miscellaneous detachments, 2130.

There was also in the service 26 officers and 520 enlisted men of the Porto Rico regiment, 99 officers and 4805 enlisted Philippine scouts and 2807 hospital corps-men.

These figures show a total net decrease during the year of 11,978.

Ascum—I suppose everything young MacKinnon has was left to him by his father.

Newitt—Well, yes, all but his name which he made for himself. The name his father gave him was "McGinnis."

It is said by Dr. George A. B. Hayes of the state hospital for insane that in Louisiana insanity is increasing at the rate of more than 10 per cent a year, or five times as fast as the population.

TYNER MAKES A STATEMENT

ANSWER TO ROOSEVELT'S LETTER ON POSTAL SCANDAL.

Says He Was Never Given a Chance to Defend Himself of Charges—He Will Refute Them—The "Gross Corruption" Sentence Stings Former Counsel for Postoffice Department.

Washington, Dec. 8.—James N. Tyner, who was assistant attorney general for the postoffice department until dismissed on account of matters connected with the postoffice affairs, has sent the following to President Roosevelt:

"Washington, Dec. 8.—To the President—Sir: In your official statement as president of the United States, addressed to the American republic in connection with the report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow on the alleged postal frauds, you make certain statements concerning my supposed connection therewith, which I take the liberty of answering in order that it may properly go upon your official records.

"I do not desire in accepting your good faith or sincerity in accepting the conclusions of your subordinate, Mr. Bristow, and in dignifying them with the weight of your high official position, but has it occurred to you that pending the trial of the three indictments against me based upon the allegations of the report, and without having heard one word from me in my defense, your premature and unwarranted announcements of my assumed guilt and your call to the court and jury to indorse the same, is to say the least, extraordinary and dangerous?

"I am not even asking that I should be presumed innocent, or that before I am condemned by you or the department I should be confronted by proof or witnesses or given an opportunity to be heard in my defense; or that in the trial which confronts me, I should have a fair trial—all I am asking is that in view of the uniformity of my life and the fact that my lips may at any moment be forever sealed, this letter be filed among your official records of my case, together with my letter of July 27, 1903, to Mr. Bristow, a copy of which I attach.

Makes Denial.

"I desire again to deny any one of the veiled charges made by Mr. Bristow in his report, and to call your attention to the fact that not one direct or specific charge is made against me in the conduct of my high office, nor has, nor can one cent of gain be traced to me. If my life is spared I shall fully refute all the surmises and insinuations of Mr. Bristow, and shall be able to show the reasons which led him to withhold from you further data and to misquote and falsify that which he did submit to you.

"I also desire to state that if any of the friends of Tyner have, as you allege, advanced the theory that in this case the chief offender was my nephew, and that my alleged offenses were due to my falling mental and bodily powers, they did so without my knowledge or assent. It is true that owing to two strokes of paralysis my bodily powers have failed me, and I may have to face a third and truer and sterner judge ere many days, but my mental powers, I thank God, have never suffered, and I trust will not fail me until I have convinced the American public and you that my acts have been honest, honorable and straightforward in the sight of God and man. I am confident that the relations of Mr. Barrett with me and my department were as innocent and honorable as I am sure were all my motives and acts.

Gross Corruption Sentence.

"I also wish to deny your utterly unwarranted statement that 'the gross corruption in the case of Tyner has gone on for a number of years.' You should know, and your subordinates do know, that no single act of corruption, gross or mild, has been discovered against me; and that the United States government, with its 40 inspectors and chief inquisitor, Mr. Bristow, will be unable to discover. I have tried during 40 years of faithful service to my country to prove my zeal for faithfulness and honesty in the public service, and I now say to you, the president of the United States, my executive, as if it were the last word I shall ever utter, that in your well recognized and honorable zeal for the public good, you have allowed yourself to be deceived and imposed on, and while I can not hope for a hearing at your hands, I shall at least give myself the wretched solace of having denied these wrongs and of having demanded that hearing which right and justice ought to accord to me. Very respectfully,

"JAMES N. TYNER."