

EUROPEAN NATIONS COERCE VENEZUELA

Great Britain and Germany at War With South American Republic.

WARSHIPS SEIZED AND SUNK IN LA GUAYRA HARBOR BY ALLIED EUROPEAN FLEETS

President Castro Issues Letter of Defiance and Calls All Citizens to Arms—British and German Residents Arrested and Imprisoned—Washington Authorities Are on the Alert.

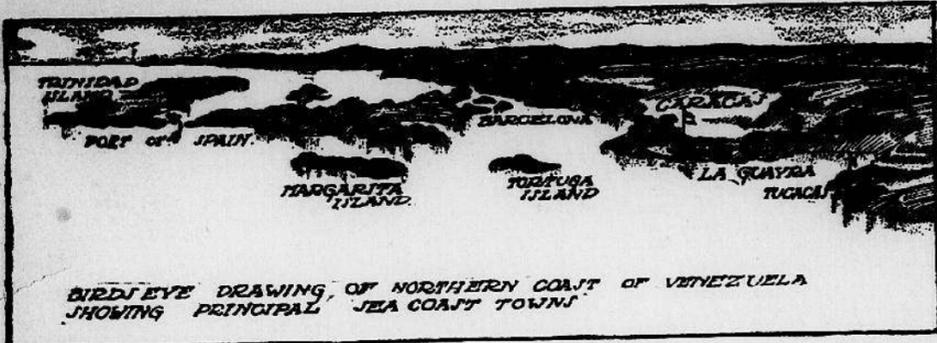
Affairs in the controversy between Great Britain, Germany and Venezuela reached a crisis Dec. 8, when Great Britain and Germany presented ultimatums to the Venezuelan government. Immediately afterward the British minister, W. H. D. Haggard, and the German charge d'affaires, Von Pilgrim-Baltazzi, closed their embassies and proceeded to La Guayra, where they went aboard the British cruiser Retribution and the German cruiser Viscia, respectively.

The British and German diplomats were taken outside the harbor the next day and scuttled. President Castro has called the people of Venezuela to arms to resist the demands of Great Britain and Germany. He has cabled messages to Venezuelan envoys to foreign countries, denouncing as unjust the menace of the British and German fleets and intimating that Venezuela will meet force with force.

Two hundred and five British and German citizens have been arrested and his political enemies from prison and W. W. Russell went at once to see President Castro, and after a long conference succeeded in obtaining the release of Dr. Koehler, Mme. von Pilgrim-Baltazzi's physician, and Consul Valentine Blohm. Minister Bowen also obtained the official authorization of the Venezuelan government to represent British and German interests during the imbroglio.

WHAT THE CLAIMS ARE.

The principal British creditors



Scene of Operations on the Venezuelan Coast.

quitted Venezuela almost secretly. They did not notify the Venezuelan government of their intended departure, fearing a hostile demonstration. They did not even deliver the ultimatums according to diplomatic forms.

The demands of the two governments were simply left at the private residence of the Venezuelan minister of foreign affairs, Lopez Barralt.

The British demand is for the settlement of claims and other matters arising out of the last revolutions. The German demand is for the payment of the interest on the German loan and other claims. The demands are without any specifications as to the time given for an answer, but they are in the form of an ultimatum.

President Castro, in an open letter to the people of Venezuela, defends his own course, and practically defies the British and German governments. He says:

"Honorably, I cannot do more. I put honor first, and will not seek excuse to disarm foolhardy enemies by accepting humiliations which would offend the dignity of the Venezuelan people, and which would not be in

pite the efforts of United States Minister Bowen to secure their release.

Mobs have partly wrecked the German embassy and consulate.

British and German flags have been burned in the streets.

The British and German railroads to La Guayra and Valencia have been seized.

President Castro has released all his political enemies from prison and restored all estates confiscated during the recent rebellion.

There was a great patriotic demonstration at Caracas when the news arrived that the British and German warships had seized the Venezuelan war vessels at La Guayra. Crowds quickly gathered and paraded the streets and squares of the capital, displaying banners and singing patriotic songs. Violent speeches were delivered at various points. The populace marched to the palace of President Castro, who addressed it.

The mob then moved on to the German legation, shouting "Death to the Germans!" The windows were shattered with stones, and attempts were made to force the doors, but the latter resisted these efforts, and Mme.

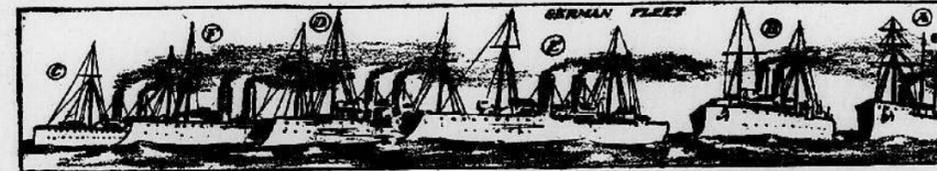
whose claims are to be enforced by the ultimatum against Venezuela are, according to the New York Tribune's correspondent in London, railway and labor improvement companies. Some of these companies complain of defaults of interest guaranteed by the Venezuelan government, and another corporation, which took up an issue of bonds, claims that a considerable amount of unpaid interest is due it.

The German claims are larger in amount and more varied in their nature and the responsibility of the Venezuelan government for the redemption of the obligations is less obvious in certain sections of the account.

The precautions taken by the United States in ordering a strong fleet to the Venezuelan coast do not escape attention. It is considered a sign that the Washington authorities are on their guard against the taking of too drastic measures on the part either of Germany or England for the collection of a debt from a weak power distracted with revolution.

As Viewed in Washington.

President Roosevelt's recent utter



GERMAN FLEET—(A) Cruiser Falke, 1,731 tons, 15 guns; (B) cruiser Gazelle, 2,650 tons, 30 guns; (C) gunboat Panther, 900 tons, 22 guns; (D) cruiser Iobc, 2,650 tons, 28 guns; (E) cruiser Ariadne, 2,650 tons, 28 guns; (F) cruiser Amazon, 2,650 tons, 28 guns.

accord with my public life. The cause of our national dignity is based on our rights and our possession of justice, and on our relations of friendship and mutual respect with foreign nations."

December 10 the combined British and German fleet seized the Venezuelan fleet, composed of four warships, in the harbor of La Guayra. The Venezuelans made no resistance, not a shot being fired.

On the same day all German and British subjects in Caracas were arrested. The coming of the arrests so soon after the hurried departure of the representatives of Germany and England is taken to be more than a coincidence. The belief is that both envoys had advance information regarding President Castro's intent and decided to get out of the way.

All the stores and banks at La Guayra are closed. Great excitement prevails, as the population fears that the town may be shelled or other action taken by the Anglo-German vessels.

All the Venezuelan warships cap-

von Pilgrim-Baltazzi, the wife of the German charge d'affaires, who has been ill in bed for the last two months and therefore could not leave Caracas with her husband, was thus saved from violence.

The crowd then marched to the German consulate and then to the residence of Dr. Koehler, again stoning the windows and attempting to force an entrance. The police made no effort to disperse the demonstration.

All the British residents were arrested except Albert Cherry of the Venezuela British owned Central railway and Mr. Wallace, manager of the telephone company, who escaped to a place of safety.

Ninety-seven German residents were arrested, among them the German consul, Valentine Blohm, and Herr Knoop, the manager of the German Central railway. Herr Simmross, chancellor of the German legation, was met by the police, near Bolivar square, and also arrested.

On learning these incidents United States Minister Bowen and Secretary

ances on the Monroe doctrine in his message to congress were written with the Venezuelan matter in view and probably for the purpose of indicating to Germany and Great Britain how far this government was willing they should proceed in the collection of the moneys which they are claiming from Venezuela. It is presumed, therefore, that President Roosevelt is ready to meet any emergency which may arise in the future.

It is regarded as significant that the great naval maneuvers under Admiral Dewey which are now going forward around the island of Porto Rico were conceived after Great Britain and Germany had formally announced their purpose to send hostile fleets to the Venezuelan coast.

This government is well prepared for contingencies. The Navy Department could on short notice send into those waters a fleet far stronger than the combined naval forces of Germany and Great Britain, but no war ship will be sent if it can be avoided. The country's policy has been to hold distinctly aloof from both sides.

MARK TWAIN IN THE LONG AGO.

A Thin, Scrawny Fellow When He Was a Wheelman in California. Capt. Selwyn Ramsey of San Joaquin City, Cal., claims the unique distinction of once having employed Mark Twain as second wheelman at a salary of \$18 a week. Capt. Ramsey is one of the old pioneers in California river navigation. He commanded the first steam packet that ever ran up the Sacramento river, and although he is over 80 years old and hasn't been on the bridge for more than 12 years, yet he still loves to talk of the good old river days.

"Yes, I used to know Sam Clemens," said Capt. Ramsey to an interviewer, "and he was one of the best wheelmen I ever had. It was along in 1868. I was on the old John Wallace at that time, on the Sacramento river."

"About the time I met Clemens I was pretty hard up for help. Wages were good and lots of men deserted for the mines. All the wheelmen had to be broken in, as there were no experienced river men in the country in those days. And I was pretty glad when I heard of a young fellow who had been in a pilot house on the Mississippi. The minute I tied up in San Francisco I went right over to the United States mint, where I got his address. As soon as I saw him at the wheel I engaged him on the spot."

"Mark Twain was a thin, scrawny looking fellow then, but he was a great hand making friends, and all of us liked him. I think he was on the Wallace about five months—it's so long ago that I forget the exact time. He was a straight out and out wheelman, and he learned the river like a book. The country was pretty wild in those days and a man had to watch out for himself, but Clemens got along with the best of them."

GHOSTS HOLD CARNIVAL HERE.

House at Dunkirk, N. Y., Which Is Haunted by Spirits.

Residents in the Fourth ward are greatly excited over an alleged haunted house in Lincoln avenue. The house in which the ghosts are said to hold sway is a small, gloomy, vine-covered cottage resting back from the street, almost hidden from view by deep shrubbery. It was the home of an aged woman who was found lying upon the floor one morning dead. For years she had led the life of a recluse, and her every action had been shrouded in mystery. After her death considerable money was found secreted about the place. Within the past two years over a dozen families have lived in the house. None remained longer than two weeks. A family who had moved into the house Monday last moved out to-day. They stated that continually about midnight the sound of footsteps, groans, blood-curdling chuckles of laughter, and the clanking of chains could be heard throughout the house.

The lighted lamp on a number of occasions was blown out without any apparent cause, and several times the bedclothes were forcibly pulled from the occupants of the bed. The old woman during her life never allowed a person to enter the house. The opinion is that she has come back to this world to keep people out of the house, which she guarded so jealously before her death.—Dunkirk (N. Y.) Correspondence.

THE CHILD'S CALL.

He calls with quick, insistent cry. He calls at work or play. And I must put my business by. And all my books away.

He summons me from household cares Back to his sunny room, And up the stairs and up the stairs In happy haste I come.

Sweeter than lark and mavis dear, And nightingales in May, The little voice so shrill and clear That I must yet obey.

While up the stairs and to the door My heart runs on in glee, I hear a voice I knew of yore That never calls for me.

Ever through shadow time and sun I hear a baby call, That is not you, my precious one, That is not you at all.

Afar, where heavenly waters flow, A little lamb a few weeks old Bleats for his mother still.

O mother's love and mother's joy! But while I come in haste, I hear another lovely boy Cry from the lonely past.

And while I kiss your curls aside And hold you to my breast, I kiss the little boy that died, That will not let me rest.

—Katherine Tynan.

All the Men Are Princes. There are about 12,000 people scattered over the twenty-odd rocks or islets which constitute the Foroe group, between the Shetlands and Iceland. Every man in the country is in some way the descendant of a king—that is, Norse sea-kings, who fled to the islands in the ninth century and peopled them.

In spite of his home-spuns, his turf hut, and his primitive life, every good Foroe is conscious and proud of his ancestry, and he bears himself like a prince. He has no newspapers or social problems; but he knows the history of his island home, and he is a constant reader of books, mostly Danish. His literary taste is inferior only to that of the Icelanders, who for 1,000 years have raised and maintained an ideal national literature of

Campfire Tales

Love Triumphant. Helen's lips are drifting dust; Illion is consumed with rust; All the galleons of Greece Drink the ocean's dreamless peace; Lost was Solomon's purple show Restless centuries ago; Empires died and left no stain— Babylon, Barbary and Spain— Only one thing, undefaced, Lasts, though all the worlds be waste, And the heavens are overturned, Dear, how long ago we learned!

There's a sight that blinds the sun, Sound that lives when sounds are done, Music that rebukes the birds, Language lovelier than words, Hue and scent that shame the rose, Wine no earthly vineyard knows, Ocean more divinely free Than Pacific's drinkless sea, Silence stiller than the shore, Swept by Charon's stealthy oar— Ye who love have learn't it true. Dear, how long ago we knew! —Frederick Lawrence Knowles, in Harper's Magazine.

Anecdotes of Gen. Sigel. A New York newspaper writer, who was an intimate friend of Gen. Frans Sigel, lately deceased, tells an anecdote which illustrates that little warrior's pugnacity and daring, says the Washington Post.

"Broadway knew Sigel fairly well," says this scribe, "and Park Row knew him better. Many a newspaper man has stood for hours leaning against the soiled rail of the very much soiled bar at the saloon near the bridge while Sigel sipped his beer and told his stories. So frail was he that the stronger men in the party would form a sort of cordon about him, that the rough workmen, constantly crowding into the place would not knock the tiny old soldier off his feet. They did not know him, and would not have cared, anyway, perhaps. What was a hero of the German revolution and a general of the civil war, that he should stand in the way of a thirsty artisan in search of his beer?"

"But the martial spirit was in Sigel to the very last, I fancy. It was there three years ago certainly. I had met the general walking slowly up Broadway about dinner time, and suggested dining at a certain well known German restaurant on Forty-second street, near Broadway. He was agreeable. During the meal he told a few—just a few—war reminiscences, in that delightful dialect which lent to them a keen zest because you must need hear every word to understand the narrative. I chanced to recall that a revival of 'Shenandoah' was being given at the American theater, two blocks away.

"Why not go?" I asked. "Yes," he exclaimed, with enthusiasm, "we will go."

"Had Bronson Howard been present to have seen the laughter and tears, the anger, the joy of that little German soldier as the story of love and war was unfolded it might have inspired him to another drama equally worthy."

"As we were leaving the theater, the little general, hubbubbing over with enthusiasm, a big, raw-boned man, half intoxicated, said:

"All that rot about Phil Sheridan! He was a poltroon! A coward!"

"Sigel heard him and sprang immediately forward. Shaking his fists in the big man's face, he shouted:

"Dumkopf! Schaatskopf! Komm heraus. Ich schlag dir den Kopf ab!"

"But the big man did not accept the invitation! The fighting terrier of seventy-four years had cowed the St. Bernard!"

"I rather guess that was Franz Sigel all through life!"

Paroles Were Not Revoked. Daniel R. Goodloe, for many years a distinguished resident of Washington, and chairman of the commission to free the slaves of the district, once told this story:

"One morning soon after the surrender at Appomattox I was one of a group of gentlemen standing on Pennsylvania avenue, discussing the momentous questions of the day. As we talked Gen. Grant rode toward us, smoking his usual cigar. Recognizing several of us, he dismounted and joined us.

"What's the news?" he asked. "I answered: 'We are discussing a piece of news which comes to us directly from the White House, and which gives me no little concern.'"

"What is it?" asked the general. "I understand that President Andrew Johnson intends to revoke the parole of Gen. Lee and other generals of the late Southern Confederacy."

"Who was your informant?" asked Gen. Grant.

"I gave him the name of the gentleman who had given the information."

"Gen. Grant quietly said, 'Thank you, gentlemen,' remounted his horse, and rode rapidly away toward the White House."

"We leisurely turned our steps in the same direction, and as we entered the portico we saw Grant coming down the steps looking more excited than I had ever seen him before. I went up stairs and met a friend who had been in conference that morning with Mr. Johnson on the subject above mentioned. He said to me: 'If you have any request to make of the President this morning, keep it until some other time. He is angrier than I have ever seen him. A moment ago Gen. Grant strode into his presence and peremptorily demanded: "Do you intend to revoke the parole of Gen. Robert E. Lee and other officers of the late Co-

by me as general commanding the army of the United States. My promise to them shall be kept in good faith if it takes the army of the United States, plus the army of the late Confederacy, to enforce it."

"Saying this, Grant retired and left Johnson white with rage. "We never heard any more of the revocation of the paroles."—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Veterans Still in Service. There are now twenty-two generals of the line of all three grades and eleven staff generals in the permanent military establishment. Of the twenty-two line generals seventeen served at some period in the civil war, and several of them, as has been shown, almost from the beginning.

Five only, all brigadiers, have no civil war record. They are Wood, Grant, Bell, Funston and Carter, all too young for service in 1861-65.

Of the eleven staff generals eight served in some capacity in the civil war, either in the regular or volunteer service. The three who did not are Bates, paymaster general; Crozier, chief of ordnance and Ainsworth of the Record and Pension office.

Fifty-three out of fifty-nine colonels of the line were soldiers of the civil war. Three of the cavalry colonels and one of the artillery were not, but every one of the infantry colonels dates back to the days of 1861-65. In the cavalry and artillery there is one vacancy each.

Out of the sixty-one lieutenant-colonels of the line twenty-four are civil war veterans, but a fraction over one-third. Very few majors of the line saw service in 1861-65.

The ratio of civil war veterans to the whole is about the same in the staff department. Twenty-six out of thirty-six colonels, twenty out of sixty-one lieutenant-colonels and a dozen out of a total of 161 majors of staff have records running back to the civil war.

Spy's Valuable Services.

Miss Major Pauline Cushman was one of the best known federal scouts and spies and rendered most excellent service to the government. She was an actress at the beginning of hostilities, and while playing at Louisville she was arrested by the federal authorities because it was believed that she was in the employ of the south. This little woman vehemently denied, and to prove her loyalty took an appointment in the secret service. After a short trial in work which required discretion and tact she was assigned to Gen. Rosecrans.

Time and time again she visited the enemy's lines and made herself familiar with the roads in Southern states. Miss Major Cushman was made a prisoner twice, but managed to escape without telling any of the secrets entrusted to her by the federal government. Just after Nashville was taken she was captured while making a trip near that city. Again she managed to escape, only to be recaptured the following morning. They searched her this time and found in her garters papers which proved conclusively that she was a spy. Arrangements were being made to hang her when the Union forces marched into the town and took possession. In the war department there are a number of papers touching the splendid services of Miss Major Pauline Cushman.

Gave Up His Pension.

Recently a Kansas soldier sent the following letter to the Pension Department:

"Topeka, Oct. 3, 1902. "To the Honorable Pension Commissioner:

"Having become converted to the belief commonly known as Christian Science, I herewith voluntarily surrender all claim to the pension I have been drawing for the last twelve years. My pension was allowed on account of alleged rheumatism and alleged stomach trouble, contracted during my service in the civil war, and the mortal error which made me think I had them also made the doctors who examined me think the same. But I am now convinced that there is no such thing as rheumatism or stomach trouble; that, by the blessing of God, I am free from error, and that I have no right to take money from the government on account of a cause which does not exist."

A Crisis Met Half Way.

There were strict orders in the Philippines regarding looting, and one day a lieutenant's suspicions were aroused by a private who he saw peering eagerly under the piazza of a house on the outskirts of Manila, writes Dixie Wolcott in Harper's Magazine. "What are you doing there?" he demanded, in his gruffest tones.

"Why, sir," said the soldier, saluting, "I'm only trying to catch a chicken which I've just bought."

Lieut. K. stooped and caught sight of a fine pair of fowls. "There are two chickens under there," he exclaimed, excitedly. "I bought the other one. Catch 'em both."

For Memorial B. dge.

The stonemasons' union of Washington City has made the first donation to the memorial bridge which the government is to construct across the Potomac. It is a very large stone, he made the cornerstone, and is a stately carving. It was accepted

