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PANAMA QUESTION

The United States Will Refuse to Refer It to the Hague Tribunal.

IS APPROVED BY FOREIGN POWERS

Panama is Now a Closed Chapter in the History of Nations Says a Prominent Ambassador.

Hague Court is Not the Place For Settled Questions, But For Pending Problems, With Approval of Parties Interested.

Washington, Dec. 23.—"Refusal by the United States to consent to a proposition from Colombia for a reference of the Panama question to The Hague tribunal is expected and will be fully approved by the European powers."

This statement was made to a press representative Tuesday night by a European ambassador of high rank and influence. It has already been made in substance, though in rather more diplomatic language, to Gen. Rafael Reyes, the Colombian minister, who is expected in his forthcoming note to the state department to suggest The Hague tribunal as the proper place for the settlement of the isthmian problem. Whether the knowledge that the refusal of such a request so far from prejudicing the European powers against the Washington government will call forth their emphatic endorsement will cause Gen. Reyes to modify his note is not yet certain.

The ambassador quoted in explaining the attitude of European powers, said: "Panama is a closed chapter in the history of nations and The Hague court is not the place for settled questions, but for pending problems, which are referred to with the full approval of all the parties interested. When Russia, Germany and France recognized the independence of Panama they set their seal of approval on the prompt action of the Washington government in pledging itself to guarantee and maintain the independence of the republic it had previously recognized. Nations can hardly be expected to settle questions of sovereignty of national honor at The Hague. Moreover, in my opinion, it would not be within the province of the Washington government to grant such a request from Colombia. It is to Panama, not to Washington, that Colombia should take such a proposition.

"There is, however, question between Colombia and Panama which with all the property might be referred to The Hague and to which reference the United States will scarcely offer objection. It is the question of the assumption by Panama of a part of the Colombian debt. If Gen. Reyes should ask the United States to use its good offices to have this matter brought before The Hague, Panama might safely acquiesce in such a proposition. The difficulty in making this request would be that Colombia thereby would recognize the independence of the new republic, but this must come sooner or later."

At the navy department the statement was made Tuesday night that the instructions to the naval commanders in isthmian waters to "prevent the landing of forces with hostile intent" have not been modified. These instructions, it is believed, are sufficiently comprehensive to enable the commanders to maintain open transit across the isthmus and to protect the new republic from Colombian expeditions.

IN THE MARINE CORPS.

Minor Can Not Enlist Without Consent of Parents or Guardian.

Washington, Dec. 23.—In the supreme court of the District of Columbia Tuesday Justice Claybough granted the petition of George F. Harris for a writ of habeas corpus to secure the discharge of his son, Harry F. Harris, from the United States marine corps, on the ground that the boy was but 19 years old. The court held that the statute permitting the enlistment in the navy of boys between 14 and 18 years does not apply to the marine corps, and that the supreme court of the District of Columbia, in general term, has decided in effect that a minor can not be enlisted in the marine corps without the consent of his parents or guardian.

Minister Buchanan in Panama. Colon, Dec. 23.—(William J. Buchanan, United States minister to the republic of Panama, arrived here on the Panama Railroad Co.'s steamer Yucatan and immediately took a train for Panama in company with United States Consul Gudge.

Owingsville, Ky., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Fagan, aged 93, is dead in Menifee county. She was believed to be the oldest woman in Eastern Kentucky.

J. B. MARCUM'S WIDOW.

She Announces Her Determination to Leave Jackson, Ky.

Jackson, Ky., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Abrella Marcum, widow of J. B. Marcum, who was assassinated in the courthouse doorway here last May, has announced her determination to leave Jackson. She will start for Michigan the last of this month, where she and her family will make their future home. She will be accompanied by her children.

She says she is leaving Jackson in order to rear her boys outside of an atmosphere of feuds into which they were born.

Her husband left his family in good financial condition. He had \$25,000 life insurance, which was paid to his widow, and a short time before his death sold his Jackson home for \$2,800 cash. He also owned a tract of coal lands valued at \$8,000 and a tract of timber land worth \$10,000.

Died on a Train.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 23.—Prof. Frank Smith, aged 68, of Cynthiana, died Tuesday afternoon on Capt. J. W. Throckmorton's train on the L. & N. railroad half way between Cincinnati and Cynthiana. He was riding in an invalid's chair in the baggage car and was accompanied by several friends. He had suffered from stomach trouble and was returning from Cincinnati, where he received treatment.

Wanted a Christmas Dinner.

Newport, Ky., Dec. 23.—"Hutch" Waters, a well-known character in police circles in this city, had no better prospects for a good Christmas dinner than in jail, so he broke loose and was locked up by Patrolman Cottingham on the charge of drunkenness. With a fine of \$1 and costs he will remain in the bastille until after the new year begins.

Named All For Beckham.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 23.—Gov. Beckham has received a letter from a fond father in an Eastern Kentucky county announcing the birth of triplets, all boys, and that he has named all three for the governor—the first John Beckham, the second Cripps Beckham and the third Wickliffe Beckham, with the surname added.

Died From Their Injuries.

Mt. Sterling, Ky., Dec. 23.—Eliza Goodpastor and Lane Montgomery, who were injured in the explosion of the grist mill boiler at Chambers, Menefee county, two days ago, died since. It is given out by physicians that Samuel Bellamy, who was also injured in the accident, can not live.

Drilling Another Well.

Campton, Ky., Dec. 23.—The Wolfe County Oil and Gas Co. began the drilling of its oil well No. 3 on the John Williams farm, near this place. This well is within 300 yards of well No. 2, which is claimed to be the best well that has been drilled in this field.

Accidentally Killed His Cousin.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 23.—A dispatch from Springfield, Ky., says Thos. Scott, 15, was unloading an old revolver at Tatham Springs, when it was discharged, the bullet striking his 10-year-old cousin, Grant Scott, in the stomach, killing him instantly.

Sent to Prison For 15 Years.

Barbourville, Ky., Dec. 23.—The jury in the case of the commonwealth against Wilburn Hopkins, which was finished Saturday, brought in a verdict Monday, imposing a sentence of 15 years. Hopkins shot George Cole about three years ago.

Saloonkeepers to Test Law.

Mt. Sterling, Ky., Dec. 23.—The Winchester saloons will be kept open after the expiration of their license in order to test the order of the council refusing to issue license. The keepers have engaged Hon. Charles Bronston to represent them.

Kentucky Timber Land Sold.

Mt. Sterling, Ky., Dec. 23.—Forty thousand acres of timber lands, on which is said to be an immense amount of fine walnut, in Breathitt county, have been sold to a syndicate of New York and Michigan capitalists for \$12 per acre.

Unknown Man Kills Himself.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 23.—An unknown white man about 18 years of age, dressed as a laborer, committed suicide at Fourth and C streets at 1 o'clock Wednesday morning by shooting himself twice in the breast with a revolver.

Campbell Elected to Congress.

Paducah, Ky., Dec. 23.—J. Wheeler Campbell, democrat, was elected state senator from the Second senatorial district Tuesday, to succeed McD. Ferguson, resigned. It was a special election, and Mr. Campbell had no opposition.

Millionaire's Will Probated.

Morristown, N. J., Dec. 23.—The will of the late D. H. McAlpin has been admitted to file in the probate court. His property, including Morris county estate, is valued at \$7,000,000.

NO ARBITRATION.

Chicago Liverymen Will Resume Business With Non-Union Men Under Police Protection.

STRIKERS REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.

An Injunction Will Be Asked to Prevent Interference With Driving of Carriages or Hearses.

Word of This Decision Reached the Strikers Just as a Vote Was Being Taken to Submit the Issues to Arbitration.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The Liverymen's association at a meeting Tuesday afternoon decided that unless a peaceable settlement of the drivers' strike was reached Wednesday, they would open for business with non-union employes and would appeal to the courts for an injunction to prevent the strikers from interfering in any manner with the driving of carriages or hearses. Word of the injunction proposal reached the strikers just as a vote had been completed as to submission of the issues in the controversy to arbitration and the action of the employers was bitterly criticized by the men. No announcement of the result of the vote of the strikers was made, but the general impression was that arbitration had been accepted.

At the same time that the men were voting on the question of conciliation the members of the Liverymen's association decided to submit the whole difficulty to arbitration provided that the strikers took the initiative in the matter and that the demand for a peaceable settlement should come from the men. In anticipation of the proposition being accepted by the men a committee was appointed to receive any overtures that the union might be willing to make. The union officials were immediately notified of the decision reached by the employers and the latter, it is said, will have a reply ready Wednesday morning.

The striking drivers Tuesday night declined to arbitrate, and the joint association of livery owners and undertakers then announced that they would resume business as usual Wednesday. They will ask for police protection, particularly in the management of funerals.

CHARGED WITH RIOTING.

Officials and Members of Press Feeders' Union Indicted.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Two officials and three other members of Franklin Union of Press Feeders were indicted by the grand jury Tuesday evening, the specific charge against them being riot. The men indicted are Charles Woerner, president of the union; John Shea, treasurer; Frederick Kitchell, Joseph Mueher and Charles Smith. It is said the indictments were found on the strength of affidavits made by men who suffered from violence during the press feeders' strike. It was predicted Tuesday evening that more indictments of a similar character would be voted Wednesday. Efforts on the part of the jury to secure similar evidence against the officials of the street car men's union did not prove so successful. It was found difficult to secure any evidence tending to show that officials of the union urged their men to violence.

QUESTION OF WAGE REDUCTION.

Furnace Workers and Smelters to Meet in Buffalo Next Wednesday.

Youngstown, O., Dec. 23.—A call was issued Tuesday by President McMahon for a meeting of the executive board of the blast furnace workers and smelters union at Buffalo next Wednesday to consider the question of a reduction in the wages of this class of labor.

President McMahon said Tuesday that if a reduction is to be put into effect that the men earning the big salaries should receive the greatest reduction.

Refused to Accept Service.

Victor, Col., Dec. 23.—Maj. Thomas McClelland refused to accept service from Deputy Sheriff Frank Herbert in a civil case brought by Patrick H. Mulaney for \$100,000 damages against Gov. Peabody, Gen. Bell, Col. Verdeckberg and Maj. McClelland and Naylor.

They Plead Guilty.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Five members of the Electrical Workers' union, who were recently indicted for participation in a plot to keep witnesses out of the state and prevent them from testifying, pleaded guilty Tuesday before Judge McEwen.

The saloonkeepers of Lexington, Ky., agree to stop slot machine gambling if the grand jury will not indict them.

SELF-CONFESSED MURDERER.

One of the Most Sensational Trials Heard in Brooklyn Ends.

New York, Dec. 23.—With a verdict that sends Frank H. Burness, a self-confessed murderer, to the electric chair, a jury before Judge Crane Tuesday afternoon ended one of the most sensational murder trials heard in Brooklyn for months. Burness' fourth murder was committed on November 10 last, when he shot Capt. George B. Townsend, of the schooner Charles K. Buckley, because the latter would not pay him \$6.30, the prisoner alleged to be due him. This and other killings were calmly described by Burness Tuesday on the witness stand, and the murderer insisted that he did the deed with premeditation and in a full realization of the consequences.

The jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree. Burness smiled broadly when the jury was being polled. Judge Crane said he would sentence Burness on Monday and he asked the judge if he would be permitted to say something. On being given the privilege he said:

"There may be an idea in the minds of some of the jurors that I hold a grudge against them for having found me guilty. I wish to say that I do not feel in that way in the slightest, and (laughingly) all I can say is, I wish them all a merry Christmas."

Burness, who is about 44 years of age, according to his own statement, was born in Butler, Pa.

When asked what he thought would be the result of his act, he coolly replied:

"I only see one way out of it."

"What is that?"

"Why, the chair, of course," he said.

STRANGELY MISSING.

Army Officers Endeavoring to Find Lieut. Floyd C. Miller.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Officers of the army are endeavoring to find second Lieut. Floyd C. Miller, of the First infantry, who, while engaged with troops on guard at the tomb of ex-President McKinley in the Westlawn cemetery, near Canton, O., disappeared on the 4th inst., and has not been seen or heard from since. There is no known reason for his conduct, as he was not involved in any apparent trouble and was supposed to be satisfied with his duties. Lieut. Miller is a native of Ohio, and was an ordinary seaman in the navy from May 31 to August 31, 1898. In September, 1899, he enlisted as a private in the 16th infantry and showed such proficiency that in July, 1901, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the First infantry and served with that regiment up to the time of his disappearance. If he does not report within three months he will be recorded as a deserter.

STRUCK WITH A POLO BALL.

Jay Gould, Son of George J. Gould, Seriously Injured.

New York, Dec. 23.—While playing polo, on the Georgian court field, Lakewood, N. J., last April, Jay Gould, son of George J. Gould, was struck on the knee with a polo ball. The blow caused him considerable pain and soon afterwards the knee became swollen and inflamed. Since then he has walked with a limp. The family physician found that there was a fracture of the tibia just below the knee cap and that a splinter of the bone was almost protruding through the skin. An operation was performed Tuesday. The lad will probably be confined to his bed for about two weeks.

A SINGULAR VERDICT.

Not Poisoned But Dead Because She Thought She Was.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Not poisoned but dead because she thought she had been poisoned, was the singular verdict pronounced by Coroner's Physician Springer Tuesday performing an autopsy on the body of Virginia Jackson, an aged colored woman and former ex-slave. The autopsy was performed in the belief that the strange circumstances of the woman's death were indicative of murder. "This old lady thought she had been poisoned, said Springer, "and it affected her heart to such an extent that it killed her. The heart actually burst."

AN ACTRESS' SURPRISE.

Came Home to Find That Her Mother Had Been Murdered.

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 23.—Winnifred Leader, of the Grau Opera Co., who arrived home Tuesday night to find that her mother had been brutally and mysteriously murdered, had been secretly married for two years to an actor lover, Walter Halbach, also of the Grau Opera Co. She was coming home to tell her mother of her marriage as a happy Christmas surprise.

An odd cigar holder shows a funny looking rabbit dressed in military fashion standing sentry-like beside a half egg-shell made of copper.

FOUR INDICTMENTS

The Grand Jury in the Elizabeth Gillespie Murder Case Finishes Its Investigation.

FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGES.

Those Indicted Are James Gillespie, Mrs. Belle Seward, Mrs. Carrie Barbour and Myron Barbour.

They Were Driven to the Courthouse and Surrendered—The Latter Three Are Indicted as Accessories Before the Fact.

Rising Sun, Ind., Dec. 23.—In its report of the investigation of the assassination of Elizabeth Gillespie on December 8 the grand jury at 2:45 Tuesday afternoon returned true bills of murder in the first degree against James Gillespie, a twin-brother of the murdered woman; Mrs. Belle Seward, her widowed sister; Mrs. Carrie Barbour, niece of Dr. Thad A. Reamy, of Cincinnati, and Myron Barbour, her husband. Mrs. Barbour is a sister-in-law of Dr. William Gillespie, brother of the murdered woman. Bench warrants were issued immediately by Judge Downey. The Gillespies were expecting them and Dr. Gillespie drove to the home in a closed carriage and brought the indicted persons to the courthouse, surrendering them to the court.

A newspaper photographer attempted to take a snap shot and was struck by James Gillespie, who broke away from Sheriff Rump, and knocked the camera from his hand.

The four indictments were read to the accused. They showed no emotion with the exception of Myron Barbour. The indictments charged them with "Feloniously, maliciously and with premeditated intent, causing death of Elizabeth Gillespie." A conspiracy among members of the murdered woman's own family to kill her is alleged. James Gillespie, her twin-brother, is the one who is generally thought to have fired the shot. Each entered a plea of not guilty. Capt. Coles, attorney, presented petitions for writs of habeas corpus on grounds that not enough evidence to indict and liberty withheld on a charge of a crime of which they were innocent. Judge Downey ordered writs returnable immediately and the petition was heard.

Habeas corpus proceedings will be held Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock. The prosecution will have to show by witnesses sufficient evidence to hold the indicted persons. This will be done. It was agreed to release the two women on bond and this the court allowed on account of ill-health of Mrs. Seward, who suffers from heart trouble. They were admitted to bail in sums of \$10,000 each. Dr. William Gillespie, Dr. John Elfers and Earl Seward went on Mrs. Seward's bond, and bond for Mrs. Barbour was furnished by five officials of the national bank, Harvey W. Scranton, Simon Beyer, John Pate, James Perkins and O. J. Harris.

James Gillespie and Myron Barbour were refused bail and were remanded to jail. Crowds followed the two as they were taken to the county jail near the courthouse by Sheriff Rump and Marshal Overly. An extra guard was placed in the jail for the night. All the pent-up excitement and strain under which the people in the city have been laboring has broken out. No violence is expected, however, as the people seem willing to let the law take its course as long as it has proceeded this far.

James Gillespie and Myron Barbour took their incarceration in jail coolly and laughed and joked about the probability of finding a weapon on them, as the sheriff searched them. James Gillespie remarked: "This is the first time I've been in here. A fellow has to chase himself to get exercise." Myron Barbour laughed and said it was a number of years since he was inside the jail.

The widowed mother of the murdered girl, almost 80 years old, who has been prostrated during the past two weeks, was more distressed Tuesday night over the recent developments than ever and her condition is critical. With one child murdered, two others charged with murder and other relatives implicated, she is unable to be reconciled to existing conditions.

Myron Barbour, fearing a possible attack on the jail, Tuesday night asked the authorities for more protection. Sheriff Rump has deputies in jail. No attempt at violence will be made. A bitter fight is to be put up by the defense. Dr. Thad Reamy arranged with the national bank to deposit any amount up to \$100,000 as security for bond for Mrs. Barbour, already out on \$10,000 bond.

Barbourville, Ky., Dec. 23.—The Kentucky Joint Oil Co. brought in a 50-barrel well on Richard creek Monday at a depth of 500 feet.