

THE DAILY PRESS is the only newspaper published in Newport News that receives the full news service of the Associated Press.

THE WEATHER.
Fair Sunday; Monday rain, colder at night; light to moderate winds becoming east.

VOL. XIV. NO. 278.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1909.

12 PAGES

PRICE TWO CENTS

FORCES NOW ON EVE OF CRUCIAL BATTLE

Bluefield Expects Estrada and Zelaya to Fight it Out Before Wednesday.

MEXICO MAINTAINING A NEUTRAL ATTITUDE

Governor of Chihuahua Declares His Country Has Done Nothing in Nicaragua Affair—President Taft Will Lay Situation Before Congress—Revolutionists Rejoicing.

(By Associated Press.)
BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, Dec. 4.—A crucial battle between the joint insurgent forces of General Estrada, with 1,600 men and Colonel Osejo, with 1,000 soldiers on the one hand, and the troops of President Zelaya in unknown numbers on the other, will be fought before next Wednesday at Rama, it is said.
Estrada is fortified at Rama, his entrenchments being strong with hundreds of miles of barbed wire. Victory for the insurgents is predicted here.
If it materializes the way will be opened for an advance upon Managua during the dry season of January.

Mexico Neutral.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 4.—Mexico has done nothing so far in regard to the Nicaraguan matter, it is taking sides with neither Nicaragua nor the United States.
This declaration was made today by Governor Croel of Chihuahua, former Mexican ambassador at Washington.
Governor Croel has been called to Mexico for a consultation with the department of foreign relations with a view of his being sent to Washington in case certain representations made to the American government are received with favor at Washington, according to a statement by Minister of Foreign Relations Mariscal.
"The attitude to be taken by this country will depend upon developments," said the governor. "In fact, these developments are being awaited, meanwhile this country is remaining neutral. The situation is of course grave, but it is not regarded as necessary for Mexico to take a stand either way in the matter as the present issue is strictly between the United States and Nicaragua."
Anxious to Preserve Peace.
"In so far as regards Central America as a whole, Mexico is anxious to see peace preserved and that all of the countries observe the provisions of the Washington treaty. To this end Mexico will be glad to assist the United States. This country naturally feels a deep interest in Central America through the bonds of language, sentiments and assets and is anxious to contribute to all that tends towards its well being."

WH Lay Matter Before Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—There seems to be little doubt that the President will lay before congress at an early date the facts as to the Nicaraguan situation, with a view to receiving authority for any further steps he may see fit to take in the interest of Americans residing in that country and with a view to putting an end to the internecine strife in Central America.
The only communication that the state department has received from Vice Consul Caldera at Managua came this morning and related to matter of but comparatively little importance.
The question of indemnity for the killing of the Americans, Cannon and Groce, is still held in abeyance and there is reason to believe that no demand will be made until the issue between the Zelayan government and the revolutionists has been settled.
Ready for Emergency.
With the arrival at Corinto today of tomorrow of the cruiser Albany and the gunboat Yorktown from Magdalena Bay, the United States will be in a position to be taken as aggressive steps as any occasion may demand for the protection of American interests along the Pacific coast of Nicaragua.

Together with the assistance of the gunboat Vicksburg, the three warships will have about 600 fighting men. The guns aboard are considered large enough to subdue any hostile demonstration against Americans in any of the seaport towns. In event of trouble in the interior the 600 men with a supply of ammunition are regarded as a force sufficient to bring fear to

any force likely to present themselves in opposition.

Zelaya Wants Investigation.

MANAGUA, Dec. 4.—President Zelaya has asked the United States to send a commission to Nicaragua to investigate conditions existing here and says that if its findings show that his administration is detrimental to Central America he will resign.
President Zelaya believes that the information sent to the United States regarding cruelties practiced by his government is prejudiced and that a disinterested investigation would show matters in a better light.

Nothing Heard in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—If President Zelaya has asked the United States to send a commission to investigate his administration as indicated in an Associated Press dispatch from Managua no news of it reached Washington tonight.

Revolutionists Rejoicing.

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, by WIRELESS VIA COLON, Dec. 4.—General Estrada, the president of the provisional government and leader of the revolutionists, made the following statement today with regard to Secretary Knux's action in dismissing Senator Rodriguez, Nicaraguan charge d'affaires at Washington:
"I know that American sympathy is with us. The United States has always been the upholder and exponent of liberty, justice and good government. We are striving for this and in the name of Nicaragua I send greetings to the people of that nation, the United States of America."
The action of the United States has been enthusiastically received here and there has been great rejoicing for the past few days.

Cannon Sought Revenge.

RICHMOND, IND., Dec. 4.—Leroy Cannon was beaten in prison by Zelaya's orders and was eager for revenge," said Isham Sedgewick, a coffee planter of Nicaragua, who is in this city visiting his relatives today.
"I knew Cannon very well," he said.
"The last time I saw him was on July 4 at Guatemala City. He had escaped from prison. He told me he was determined to get even with Zelaya for having him whipped. He had been imprisoned on the charge of smuggling and had resisted arrest. After my meeting with him he returned and joined the revolutionary forces."

PRAIRIE FAST IN MUD

Hull Embedded Six Feet in Soft River Bottom.

DIXIE READY TO SAIL NOW

Navy Department May Order Sister Auxiliary Cruiser to Take Marines, Arms and Ammunition to Central America.

(By Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, PA., Dec. 4.—With nearly all her coal and great quantities of stores on lighters, the transport is still fast tonight in the mud flats of Pea Patch Island, where she grounded Thursday night while speeding down the Delaware river on her way to Central America. Another attempt, the third since she became fast was made at flood tide late today to float the vessel, but she was not moved.
The transport is embedded six feet in the soft bottom of the river and it is now believed that every bit of her cargo will have to be taken off before there will be a chance to float her. According to rivermen, the Prairie is about 550 feet west of the main channel. Four tugs worked on the ship for two hours this afternoon.
Admiral Kimball, on board the Prairie, is in constant communication by wireless with the navy department at Washington and he expects to receive orders during the night with regard to further attempts to float the vessel. As the prairie is resting in a bog of mud, there has been no injury to her hull.
Chaffing Over Delay.
The officers and 700 marines on board the Prairie are chaffing at the delay in getting away, but are working vigorously to float the ship.
Lying high in the water the transport does not present that spick and span appearance she did when she drew away from the navy yard Thursday afternoon amid the fring of rear admirals' salutes and the cheering of hundreds of sailors and marines on shore. Her almost immaculate hull has been considerably blackened by the coal dust as the fuel is being transferred to the lighters.

BRIDGEPORT UNDER RULE OF SOLDIERS

Martial Law Follows Rioting Incident to Strike of Tin Workers.

TWO FULL REGIMENTS WILL ENTER CITY TODAY

General in Commands Decides Marching of Strong Force by Daylight Will Have Salutary Effect Upon Strikers—Several Seriously Wounded When Plant is Fired Upon.

(By Associated Press.)
BRIDGEPORT, O., Dec. 4.—With three regiments of troops ready to enter the strike zone at daybreak today, the strike situation of the Aetna Standard plant of the American Tin Plate & Sheet Company gives promise of anything but a quiet Sunday.
The main body of troops were not allowed to enter the city last night on account of the order of Assistant Adjutant General Regar, who stated that the few men on duty would suffice for the immediate need for state protection and that the appearance of a larger company of soldiers today would have a more salutary effect upon the strikers.
Two regiments were held on troop trains outside the city limits throughout the night.
Serious clashes are feared today between guardsmen and strike sympathizers.

Martial Law Holds Sway.

BRIDGEPORT, O., Dec. 4.—Martial law tonight holds sway in this city, where 2,000 striking employees of the Aetna Standard plant of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel corporation, have been rioting since midnight Friday. A regiment of infantry, one squadron of cavalry and over 150 deputy sheriffs and company police guard the city and tin plate mills. Five men have been shot and more or less seriously wounded during the past 24 hours.
On Monday a federal court will be asked for an injunction to restrain the strikers from interfering with the operation of the plant.
Governor Harmon, at Columbus, is being kept in touch with the situation and has placed the fullest military powers on Brigadier General John C. Speaks in command of both civil and state authorities here.

Result of Trivial Incident.

The lawlessness bringing on the present situation comes after a trivial incident. Early today one of the mill guards stepped outside of the mill enclosure to escort another guard to a cab. A fusillade of shots struck one of the men, but the wounds were not serious. A third guard rushing from the enclosure dragged the two men to safety.
The shooting from the mob of strike sympathizers outside the mill gates continued until daybreak, when Sheriff Armin wired Governor Harmon for troops, saying in his message:
"We fear a repetition of the Homestead strike and much bloodshed."
The strike of the Aetna Standard plant had its inception four months ago when the American Sheet & Tin Plate Company issued an order that all of its plants would be operated on the "open shop" policy. A majority of the workmen employed in the various plants of the company were members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers, who struck when the open shop or trouble is ended it is feared the pits in Wheeling, Martins Ferry and Pittsburg will be affected.

List of Injured.

The list of known injured in Bridgeport and Wheeling hospitals, victims of the riots follows:
Chief of Police Roe, of the American Sheet & Tin Plate Company police force, shot through nose and lip. Condition serious.
William Hillary, guard, shot in mouth, also in nose. Condition serious.
Evan Franklin, guard, shot in leg. Probable amputation.
Windsor David, 15 years, shot in leg Friday night in riot between guards and strike sympathizers. Wounds not serious.
William Patton, bystander, shot in legs by small shot. Condition not serious.

Saloons Closed.

At midnight tonight all saloons in Bridgeport and Martins Ferry were closed by order of Sheriff Armin.
Local officials of the tin plate mills refuse to comment on the local situation saying they have placed their plant in the hands of the sheriff of Belmont county and have issued warning to him that he will be held responsible for the protection of their interests.

FEDERAL COURT JURY ACQUITS L. H. BATTLE

Former Greensboro Bank Cashier, Indicted on Various Charges, Goes Free.

(By Associated Press.)
GREENSBORO, N. C., Dec. 4.—A verdict declaring Lee H. Battle, former cashier of the wrecked City National Bank, of this city, not guilty of abstraction, false entries and misleading reports for which he was indicted, was returned today by the jury which for the past two weeks listened to the evidence in the case before the United States Court here.
When the verdict was announced Battle was overwhelmed by his friends who had stood steadfastly by him during the trying ordeal.
He gave way to his emotion when the pastor of his church, who had sat with him throughout the entire trial, embraced him in his joy at the outcome.

BABY TERRIBLY BURNED BY FALLING ON STOVE

Infant Son of C. L. Bryan Has Sight of Right Eye Destroyed.

While seated in the baby's high chair near a hot stove, Charles Bryan, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Bryan, fell on the top of the stove and had his right eye so badly burned that the sight is gone and it probably cannot be restored. The child's mother was not in the room at the time and the baby's escape from burning to death is probably due to the fact that it rolled from the stove to the floor.
Dr. W. J. Knight was hurriedly summoned and an examination showed that the little boy's right eye ball was blistered on the side of his face and both eyelids were badly burned. He was made as comfortable as possible.
Several small children were playing with little Charles just before the accident and it is supposed that one of them unbuckled the strap that held the baby in the chair.

MASONS ELECT OFFICERS.

H. C. Scull is Master of Peninsula Lodge No. 278.
Officers for the ensuing year were elected and installed Friday night by Peninsula Lodge No. 278, A. F. & A. M. The new officers are:
Master—H. S. Scull.
Senior warden—Fred Shawen.
Junior warden—J. B. Marsden.
Treasurer—Elias Peyster.
Secretary—E. L. Cunningham.
Senior deacon—Harry Shawen.
Junior deacon—Archer A. Applewhite.
Chaplain—E. J. Applewhite.
Stewards—Fred C. Bivins and T. K. Belch.
Tyler—Robert Clark.
Alterations to grand lodge—W. P. Epps, Robert Brydon, Jr., and E. J. Applewhite.
Members of the Masonic Relief Board—M. H. Lash and E. L. Cunningham.

FORMER LYNCHBURG MAN FOUND DEAD IN NEW YORK

Body of Addison M. Davies Taken from East River—Murder and Robbery Suspected.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—The body of Addison M. Davies, who was for a long time a prominent banker of Lynchburg, Va., was found in the East river today. He had been missing from his home in Brooklyn for three weeks.
T. M. Davies, a son who identified the body, said he believed his father had been murdered and robbed.

VIRGINIA BASEBALL LEAGUE.

Officers to be Elected at Meeting Next Tuesday.

(By Associated Press.)
LYNCHBURG, VA., Dec. 4.—The annual meeting of the Virginia League will be held in Richmond next Tuesday night at which time the officers will be elected and steps will be taken for the 1910 schedule.

President on the Links.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—President Taft today resumed his favorite amusement, golf, defeating Fenster Lurie and Frank B. Kellogg in a game of golf over the Chevy Chase links that was ended when it became impossible to follow the ball in the growing dusk.

COMPANY SPIRITED WITNESSES AWAY

Startling Developments in the Investigation of Cherry Mine Disaster.

OFFICIAL REFUSES TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Frank P. Buck, in Charge of Office, Will Not Tell What Has Become of Miner Who, it is Believed, Could Clear-up Mystery—'Afraid to Show His Face.'

(By Associated Press.)
CHERRY HILLS, Dec. 4.—Reticent admission last today by Frank P. Buck, a clerk in the office of the St. Paul Mining Company, that he had seen and talked with Alexander Rosenjack, the missing witness who, it is believed, can clear up the mystery surrounding the Cherry holocaust, came as a climax to a day of interesting developments in the joint investigation by the coroner and the state mine investigating committee.
Buck told the jury that he had seen Rosenjack in Cherry last night and notwithstanding the fact that he knew of the desire of Coroner Malm to procure his attendance at the inquest had made no effort to advise the authorities of his whereabouts.
Before Buck was called his father, Frank P. Buck, who is in charge of the mine office, was summoned and refused to answer questions pertaining to Rosenjack's whereabouts. While he was on the stand arrangements were made to subpoena his son, Frank H. Buck, before the latter could communicate with his father.
"Afraid to Show His Face."
The son was brought to the court room and followed his father to the witness stand. He admitted that he had met Rosenjack on the outskirts of Cherry Friday night.
"You knew that the coroner wanted that man, didn't you?" asked Attorney Seymour Stedman, representing the miners' union.
"Yes sir."
"What did he state as to his objections to appearing here," asked Coroner Malm.
"He did not say anything except that he was afraid to show his face in Cherry."
Another "Spirited" Away.
Mrs. Jessie Love, sister of Robert Deans, another missing witness who it is charged was spirited away from Cherry after the fire, testified that Deans had told her the fire in the mine started from a blazing torch hung where an electric light should have been and that he saw Alexander Rosenjack trying to extinguish the fire with his jacket. Mrs. Love further testified that her brother was taken away from his home in an automobile after he had been sent for by officials of the mine and had gone to the office to confer with them.
"Are you satisfied?" asked a member of the mining commission, "that somebody furnished your brother with money to enable him to stay away from home so long?"
"Hadn't Even Drawn Pay."
"You bet I am," said Mrs. Love. "He had no money and had not even drawn his last two weeks' pay. If it had not been for some person coming to take him away he never would have left Cherry."
The inquest will be resumed Monday.

CULBERSON TO RESIGN AS CAUCUS CHAIRMAN

Texas Senator Announces That His Health Makes Step Necessary.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 4.—At the first conference of the Democratic members of the senate in the coming session of congress, Senator Culberson will submit his resignation as chairman of the Democratic caucus. This determination on the part of the Texan has been reported because of his serious illness, which will probably prevent him from attending the sessions of the senate for at least two or three weeks.
In a letter to Senator Money signifying his intention to resign, Senator Culberson says:
"As you and all my Democratic associates know, I have not been at all well for nearly a year. Last March I had a severe attack of the grippe. Without taking the necessary rest from such an attack I remained in Washington in attendance upon the senate throughout the recent extra session. The result was that I continued ill during all the session and at its conclusion I was much reduced in strength and vitality. From this I have not recovered in the comparatively short vacation which I have been able to take.
Exactness Session.
"The approaching session of the congress promises to be a long, exacting and arduous one, and in my present condition I do not feel that I should undertake the extra duties which will devolve upon the chairman of our caucus. It would probably retard or prevent my early and full restoration of health."
Senator Culberson succeeded Senator Blackburn as chairman of the caucus two years ago.
In discussing his probable successor several senators today expressed the opinion that Senator Money, vice-chairman of the caucus, would be chosen.

TRAGEDY AT SHOOTING MATCH.

Alleged Unprovoked Murder at Tazewell, Va.

(By Associated Press.)
ROANOKE, VA., Dec. 4.—A Times special from Tazewell, Va., says Walter Simpson, a well known man of Thompson Valley, shot and killed Thomas Jones at a shooting match this afternoon.
The dispatch states that the shooting was without provocation and that Jones died instantly. The sheriff of the county went to the scene of the murder.

VETERANS TO ELECT OFFICERS.

Important Meeting of Magruder Camp Tomorrow Night.

Magruder Camp, United Confederate Veterans, will hold its annual election of officers at the city hall tomorrow night at 8 o'clock. Other important business also will be transacted and a full attendance of the members is expected.

POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED

Body of Mrs. Snead Viewed by Physician.

DISPOSES OF NEW THEORY

Insurance Companies Advanced Idea That Substitute Corpses Had Been Smuggled in—Authorities Hold to Murder Charge.

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—The physician who attended Mrs. Oocy Snead at the birth of her baby visited the morgue at East Orange, N. J., today and positively identified the body there as that of Mrs. Snead.
His evidence, if confirmed, disposes of a theory advanced by insurance companies in which Mrs. Snead held policies that a substitute intended to impersonate her had been smuggled into the unfurnished house where, on last Monday a young woman was found dead in a half filled bathtub.
There is thus far no proof that the girl did not die as the note found at her side says—by "crucial drowning." Handwriting experts will pronounce on the genuineness of the signatures and the state medical officers will have definite findings to make on the cause of death at the hearing originally set for next Monday but now postponed until the following Saturday.
Hypnotism Alleged.
Even if the case is then pronounced one of suicide, the prosecution will endeavor to show that Mrs. Snead was driven to it by insistent suggestion and deliberately inflicted bodily torture. Miss Virginia Wardlaw, aunt of the victim, is still in jail.
Fletcher Snead, the missing husband, whose life also was insured for \$24,000, has not been found, and has committed no offense against the law. He is a prisoner at the Elthira, N. Y. reformatory.
Mother Still Missing.
Mrs. Caroline B. Martin, the mother of the victim, has recently been a guest of friends at Brookhaven, L. I. Detectives learned today that she had not been found since her daughter's death gained such notoriety. Her refusal to appear, though the chief of police of East Orange says she has committed no offense against the laws of New Jersey and need not fear arrest if she wishes a last look at her daughter, continues one of the many puzzling features of the case.

GREAT BRITAIN IN STATE OF TURMOIL

Whole Country Practically Divided into Two Great Political Camps.

SUFFRAGETTES GO ON THE WARPATH AGAIN

Failing to Break up Great Radical Gathering in Trafalgar Square, Beligerent Women Interrupt Winston Churchill's Speech and Throw Bricks Through Windows of Building.

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, Dec. 4.—The whole of Great Britain is immersed in the political campaign which has been inaugurated by the refusal of the House of Lords to consent to the budget. The country is divided into two great camps composed of those who support the Lords' action and those who contend that the House of Commons must have absolute control of the finances of the nation.
There are, of course, many other issues, such as tariff reform versus free trade, but these are being pushed into the background by the conflict between the two houses.
While the various local organizations are busy selecting candidates and preparing for the contests—in their respective districts, the leaders from the parties are carrying on a general campaign.
The radicals, who had long foreseen the fate of their grand bill, are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet.
In London this afternoon, one of their organizations, the National Democratic League, held a demonstration as a protest against the action of the Lords which was one of the most notable ever held in the metropolis. Fully 20,000 persons, mostly of the laboring and artisan classes, gathered at Trafalgar Square and cheered the radical speakers, who condemned in unmeasured terms the members of the upper chamber.
Suffragettes on War Path.
The divergent note here, as elsewhere came from the suffragettes who after a term of comparative quiet again started to indulge in attempts to break up the radical meeting.
The Trafalgar Square crowd, however, was too great for their efforts to have any effect. They were more successful at Southport, where by climbing to a roof and shouting through the skylight they succeeded in interrupting Winston Spencer Churchill's meeting, and at Leith, where, aided by roughs, they created a diversion by attempting to storm a meeting, which Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, was addressing.
Folled by the Leith police, who charged the crowd with batons, the women secured revenge by hurling bricks through the windows of the public buildings. Secretary Grey whose speech was not interrupted to any extent, spoke strongly for the reformation of the upper chamber.
Churchill's Radical Idea.
Mr. Churchill was able to conclude his speech and undaunted by his experience held a meeting at Liverpool this evening in continuation of his Lancashire campaign.
He ridiculed the idea that the old age pensions and the navy could be paid for by the adoption of the tariff reform and referred to Mr. Balfour's offer to assist cotton growing in the Empire as very odd in view of the fact that the Unionists when in power, although asked to do something in this direction took no action.
Free Churches Active.
The National Council of Free Churches has issued a manifesto calling attention to the action of the House of Lords, which it declares makes reforms supported by non-conformists impossible and calling on the people to support the candidates who are favorable to "the emancipation of education from sectarian control."
The Unionists are nominating a candidate in every constituency in England and in Scotland, and with the exception of the seats held by Right Hon. James William Leithers and Joseph Chamberlain, who represent Birmingham, West, either the Liberals or the laborites will nominate a man to oppose them. The laborites have decided not to contest Mr. Chamberlain's seat on account of his illness.

ELIE'S FATE IN BALANCE.

(By Associated Press.)
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Dec. 4.—The fate of W. I. Ellis tonight hangs in the balance. Twelve men composing the jury, on whose decision rests his life, are at the moment deliberating on the question of the guilt or innocence of the slayer of N. P. Willis, of Indianapolis, who was shot to death in a Little Rock court room last summer.