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PLANS FOR MANEUVERS.

Dewey Will Demonstrate Use of Torpedo-Boats in Blockade.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Dec. 15.—Admiral Dewey, commanding the fleet, with the exception of the Massachusetts, sailed for Culebra this morning and engaged the vessels in tactical evolutions. The warships will return here at 4 o'clock. The evolutions are preliminary to the great exercises which are to follow the holidays.

The details of the blockade problem are announced. The torpedo-boats inside of Great Harbor will steal out and attack the battle-ships lying not less than two miles distant. Judges will be appointed to determine which side is victorious. The usefulness of torpedo-boats will thus be demonstrated, and the commanders are confident that the prejudice against this type of vessel will be swept away as a result of their behavior.

McNutt Gets His Freedom.
NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—William McNutt, who has been a prisoner in the Tombs on an extradition warrant issued by Governor Odell on the ground that he is a fugitive from the State of Illinois, charged with grand larceny of \$22,000 from Willard T. Block on March 11 last, was discharged from custody by Justice Fitzgerald in the Supreme Court today.

Anxious About Cuban Trade.
LONDON, Dec. 15.—When questioned in the House of Commons regarding the negotiations for a reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba and how it was proposed to protect British rights under the most favored nation treatment in Cuba, Under Foreign Secretary Cranborne said representations had been made to Washington on the subject, but that no reply had yet been received.

AWAITS GENERAL GRANT

Arrangements for Mrs. Grant's Funeral Delayed Until His Arrival.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The arrangements for the funeral of Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, the widow of the ex-President, will not be made until Brigadier-General Fred D. Grant, one of her sons, arrives from the West. It is expected that he will reach here Thursday.

The President will take no action on the death of Mrs. Grant beyond the sending of a handsome floral piece from the White House conservatories, conveying an expression of his grief and that of Mrs. Roosevelt.

Fred Grant Leaves for Washington.
SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 15.—General Fred Grant, U. S. A., commanding the Department of Texas, returned from a tour of inspection of the Army posts this afternoon. At Alliance he first learned of the death of his mother. At 9 o'clock this evening, accompanied by Mrs. Grant, he started for Washington on a M. K. & T. train.

BOTH PARTIES CRY FRAUD

Democrats Retaliate by Contesting Election of Republican Senators.

DENVER, Dec. 15.—Contests were filed today with the Secretary of State against all of the 11 Republicans elected to the Colorado State Senate at the last election. Frauds are alleged. The move is understood to be simply a preparation for retaliation by the Democratic Senate in case the Republican House attempts to carry on the threats of Republican leaders in the unseating of 14 Democrats who are alleged to have been elected through frauds in Denver.

FACTS ARE OUT

British Parliament Debates Venezuela.

GERMAN ALLIANCE OPPOSED

Lest It Should Cause Trouble With United States.

GOVERNMENT STATES ITS CASE

Cranbourne Says Britain Must Police Small Nations—Correspondence Shows Demand Was Made in July for a Settlement.

The Venezuelan crisis has reached the dispatch-writing and speech-making stage again, but a new element was added in the decision of Italy to join the allies in conducting the blockade.

This was announced in the Chamber of Deputies, and one Deputy took the opportunity of assailing the United States.

There was a debate in the British House of Commons, in which the government declared its adherence to the Monroe Doctrine and its willingness to accept arbitration. It was attacked for risking the enmity of this country by its alliance with Germany.

Secretary Hay has notified Great Britain and Germany that the United States will not recognize a peaceful blockade and that no American ships must be excluded from Venezuelan ports.

President Castro still fulminates against the allies, but is hampered by a revival of the revolution and by demands for his resignation.

Indignation at the action of Great Britain and Germany is growing in Spanish America, and some journals talk of aiding Venezuela, while from Argentina comes a suggestion to form a defensive Latin-American alliance.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The House was crowded tonight when the Venezuelan matter came up for debate on a motion by Mr. Schwann to adjourn. Mr. Schwann, after having expressed surprise that the government was anxious for another war in South Africa, complained of the paucity of information concerning the Venezuelan situation, which has been given to Parliament. He said he hoped arbitration would be accepted, because, although President Roosevelt is anxious to act correctly, the situation is full of danger, and the President's hands might be forced by politicians.

Lord Cranbourne spoke after Mr. Schwann. He reproached the member with a desire to discredit the government, and explained that the papers in the Venezuelan matter were very voluminous and that those issued today were only a summary. He said that Great Britain had to perform police duty among the nations, and had to prevent Venezuela from breaking the law of nations. The United States took the sensible view that Great Britain's insistence that Venezuela should meet her engagements was not an infringement of the Monroe Doctrine.

"No country has been more anxious than Great Britain," said Lord Cranbourne, "to assist the American Government in maintaining the doctrine."

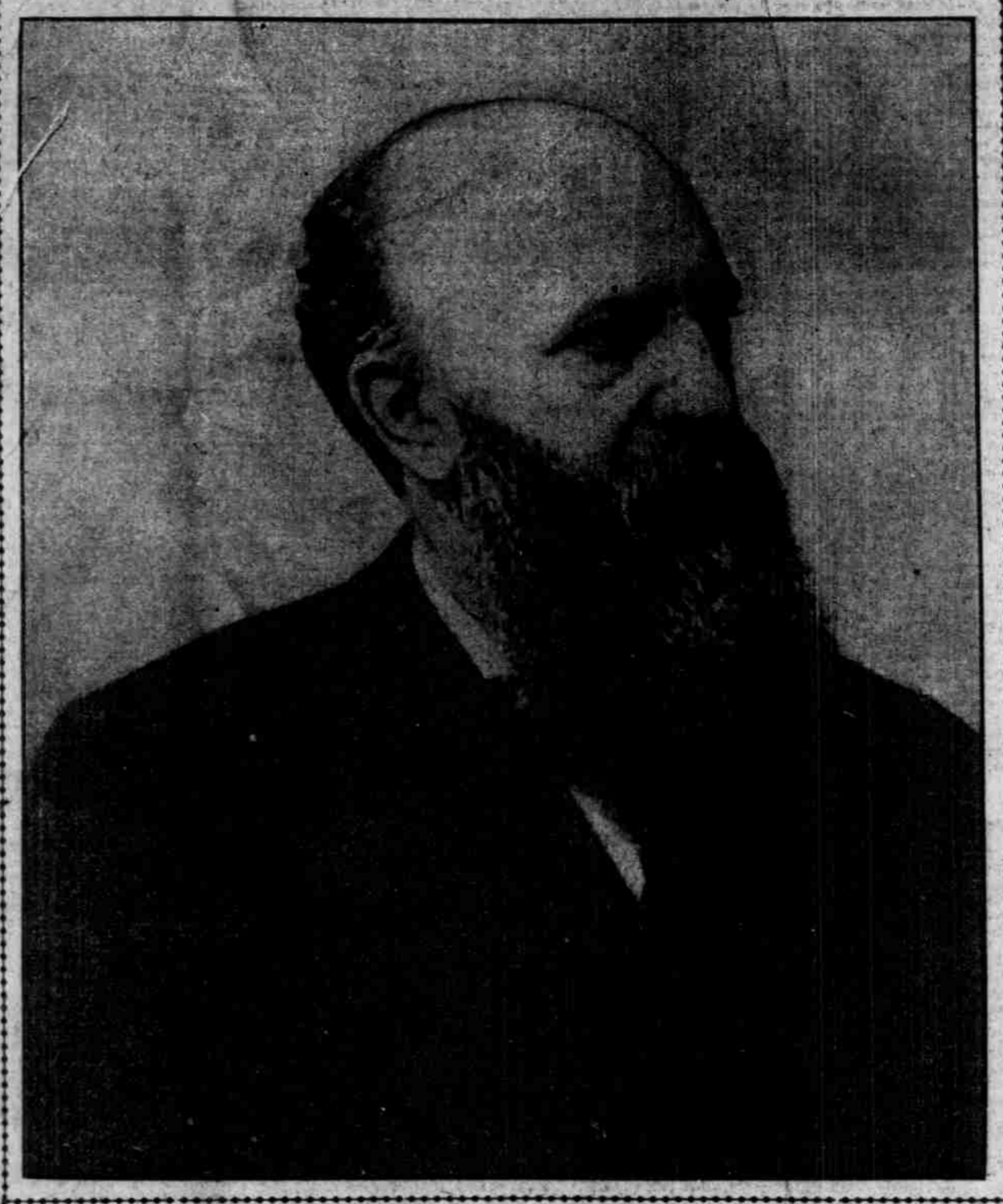
This remark was greeted with cheers. Continuing, the Under-Foreign Secretary said the British government had displayed great forbearance, and that it was only after Venezuela had been thrice summoned to do right that the government had been driven to strong measures to secure the safety, liberty and property of British subjects in Venezuela, and that, in the execution of these measures, the government desired to pursue the same course of moderation. Lord Cranbourne said also that the blockade would be carried out with every regard for the interests of neutrals.

Bound to Germany.
The Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, then voiced his strong disaffection with Lord Cranbourne's speech. He complained of the lack of information about the German and British claims, which, he said, seemed to be in different footings. The speaker said he was an advocate of the best possible feeling between the two countries, but that in this matter Great Britain seemed to be bound hand and foot to Germany.

"We could do nothing with regard to our claims," continued the Liberal speaker, "unless the Germans are perfectly satisfied with the settlement of their claims. Such an agreement is contrary to the country's interests. The noble Lord had said nothing about an important communication received from the United States. There would be universal satisfaction if this communication were of such a nature as to lead to a peaceful solution of what after all seems to be a somewhat squallid difficulty."

Premier Balfour then spoke. He accused the mover and the seconder of the motion to adjourn of a desire to discredit the government, and said this was not the way to approach a painful international episode. The Premier declared there was no justification for the assumption that the government was prepared to go to war for the Venezuelan bondholders. The crux of the matter was a series of outrages by Venezuelans on British seamen and shipowners, for which not only had compensation been refused, but

THE LATE SOLOMON HIRSCH, MERCHANT, LEGISLATOR AND DIPLOMAT.



S. HIRSCH IS DEAD

Pioneer Merchant, Legislator and Diplomat.

NOTABLE CAREER IS ENDED

Coming to America When a Boy, He Won a Fortune, Achieved Distinction in Politics, and Served as Minister to Turkey.

CAREER OF SOLOMON HIRSCH.

Born in Germany, March 25, 1839.
Went to New York, 1853; to Oregon, 1858; to Portland, 1864.
Elected Representative, 1872; State Senate, 1874; President State Senate, 1880.
Candidate for United States Senator, 1885.
Minister to Turkey, 1888.
President Temple Beth-Israel; thirty-second-degree Mason.

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Solomon Hirsch, the pioneer merchant, Minister to Turkey during Harrison's Administration, and for 14 years a member of the Oregon Legislature from Multnomah County, died of heart failure at 11:36 o'clock yesterday morning. His death was entirely unexpected and came as a great shock to his hosts of friends in Oregon. While he had been ill several weeks, and had been confined to his room on several occasions, his malady was not thought likely to prove fatal. During the last two or three days he had been suffering more than usual from his heart trouble, and his physician, Dr. A. J. Gleason, had been in frequent attendance upon him.

All the members of his family were at home when he passed away. As soon as the news of his death had gained circulation, scores of close friends of the bereaved called to offer words of consolation or sent messages of condolence. In business and social circles expressions of praise for the many excellent qualities of the deceased. Everywhere there was a feeling of almost personal loss in the death of one of Portland's best known, most successful and most highly honored citizens.

His Early Career.

Solomon Hirsch was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, March 25, 1839, and was, therefore, 63 years and 9 months old when he died. He was one of a family of 11 children, and his parents being poor he was early in life compelled to make his own way in the world. He had been given a common school education in the public schools of Germany, and with only this and an indomitable perseverance he set forth at the age of 14 years to seek his fortune in the New World. Soon after landing in New York he secured employment as a clerk in a store in New Haven, Conn., and then began the mercantile experience which has since made him a man of wealth and a leader in the building of the commercial interests of Portland. After a few months behind the counter in New Haven, he returned to New York, and a few weeks later went to Rochester, N. H., where he was engaged as an office clerk at a small salary. Attracted by the opportunities that offered themselves in the far West, he came to Oregon in the Spring of 1858, and

RAISE NEW ISSUE

Miners Open Attack on Coal Railroads.

QUESTION FREIGHT RATES

They Are Said to Be Cause of Low Wages.

MINERS' CHILDREN TESTIFIED

Half-Grown Girls Work All Night in Factories to Help Maintain the Family—Miners' Side of Case Almost Closed.

The miners' case before the coal strike commission was practically closed yesterday, although one of the most important points may be raised in reply to the operators' case.

This is the hearing the freight rates charged by the coal railroads have on wages of miners. The commission desires not to enter into this question, but if the operators allege that they cannot afford to pay higher wages the miners will be allowed to show the rates charged on coal as the reason.

The final evidence for the miners was that of a number of little girls, daughters of miners, who said they were compelled to work in factories, some of them all night, in order to swell the family income.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 15.—The miners, after occupying 19 days in presenting about 160 witnesses, practically closed their case before the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission this afternoon. They will call one important witness tomorrow morning. The afternoon session today was one of the most important sittings the commission has yet held, because the question of whether the close relationship of the coal-carrying roads with the mining companies shall figure in the commission's efforts to adjust the controversy came squarely before the arbitrators. The decision of the commission, if Chairman Gray's remarks can be so called, was briefly this:

That the commission in a general way is averse to widening the scope of the investigation beyond the terms of the submission of the miners, and the operators, that in carrying on the investigation, it assumes the coal companies can afford to pay fair wages; that if the coal companies in presenting their side of the case maintain that they cannot afford to give an increase in wages, then the commission will hear what the miners have to say on the ability of the company to do so, and that, if a business cannot pay fair wages, the employer ought to get out of it.

These points were brought out during the two hours consumed by the miners' lawyers in reading documentary evidence, to the witness stand and the company entered specific and general objections. The miners' case before the commission on the evidence they had to present to show that the coal-carrying roads control the coal companies, and that the railroads charge exorbitant and discriminating freight rates, thus greatly decreasing the revenues of the mining properties.

Plan to Shorten Hearing.

It was announced by the commission at the opening of the hearings today that when it adjourned for the holidays, probably on Saturday, it will be to meet in Philadelphia on the first Monday in January. The plan was to shorten the hearing by developments this week. Before proceeding to the hearing of witnesses, Chairman Gray informed the attorneys that the commission had prepared a certain list of formal questions for the further information desired. He also asked the operators to expedite the presentation of their statement containing the wages paid the miners and the hours worked. He said the hardest work for the commission is still to come, and the commissioners would like to begin their study of figures as soon as possible.

Former employees of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company, Erie Company, and Pennsylvania Coal Company testified to alleged discrimination in the matter of employment after the strike. The miners' case before the commission showing that the mine officials of the Continental colliery of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Hudson Company attempted to organize a union known as the Lackawanna Union, in opposition to the United Mineworkers of America. Mr. Darrow, for the miners, offered the by-laws of the new union as evidence. Everett Warren, for the coal companies, objected to their admission, but the commission admitted them.

Girls Who Work at Night.

Several little girls employed in the silk mills were called to the witness stand, and as a result, Chairman Gray plainly gave his opinion of parents who send their children to work at a tender age. The first girl called was only 11 years of age, and she had to go to work because her father had been hurt in the mines. She said she worked from 7 A. M. until 4 P. M. for 23 a week. In answer to Chairman Gray, she said her father expects to take her out of the mills next week, to which Judge Gray replied that he should see the father.

Annie Denks, aged 13 years, said she worked at night from 6:30 o'clock until 6:30 in the morning. She had to stand up all night during her work, and received 45 cents a night. When the girl said she was employed at night every member of the commission seemed shocked. Judge Gray appeared especially indignant. He asked her where her father worked, and she told him in the mines. The girl also told the number of persons in the family, and finally Judge Gray said he would like to see the father.

"I would like to see the fathers of these girls," he repeated. "It may be a necessity to send them to the mills, but I do not think a father has a right to coin the flesh and blood of his children into money."

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