

THEY BLAME BLANCO

Ruiz Said to Have Been Driven to His Doom.

THE BAD FEELING IS INTENSE

It is Reported That Ruiz Protested Vainly Against Undertaking the Fatal Mission.

New York, Dec. 27.—Indignation over the killing of Colonel Ruiz is intense in Havana, says the Herald correspondent. Many blame General Blanco, alleging that he forced General Ruiz to go, in spite of the latter's protestations that it meant certain death. All accounts agree that Colonel Aranguen was personally opposed to the infliction of the extreme penalty, and would have saved Ruiz, but his own life would have been sacrificed had he done so, in opposition to the orders of his superiors.

A cablegram has been received stating that General Lee has been instructed by Secretary Sherman to notify General Gomez and other rebels that they need expect no American sympathy if they continued to permit firing on flags of truce. General Lee says he has received no instructions, adding that he knew of no instance of the display by the Spaniards of a flag of truce during this war. It has never been claimed by the Spanish authorities that Colonel Ruiz was under a flag of truce, that institution being unknown to the Spanish army in Cuba, its use being interdicted as involving recognition of the insurgents as belligerents.

Much excitement was caused on Sunday morning when a small white warship, bearing a strong resemblance to the United States gunboat Annapolis, was seen approaching the harbor. A rumor spread that an American warship was coming in, and the people became frenzied when the stranger's guns opened in a salute to the forts, many believing the city was being bombarded. It was soon apparent that the vessel was the German schoolship Stein, but several hours elapsed before quiet was restored in the city.

All last night raging fires have been visible southwest of Havana, only ten miles away. Standing came on the Toledo and Potugalete stations, which was set on fire by the rebels and completely destroyed. The fire caused great consternation in Havana.

Within Sight of Havana.

Havana, Dec. 27.—The recent unfortunate mission of Colonel Ruiz to the camp of Colonel Aranguen in this province calls attention sharply to the remarkable circumstances that a Spanish officer and a messenger from the American consulate could reach the insurgent camp in an hour after leaving Havana, when the troops have never found it, and causes sharp comment on the military operations. The camp is a few miles from a Spanish fortress, and its location has been known for nine months.

Ruiz' friends among the volunteers and armed firemen of Havana censure General Blanco, and call for vengeance on the insurgents. From their camp the insurgents have sent a defiant communication to the troops to come and take it.

JUST OUT FROM DAWSON.

Latest Report is That There is Food Enough to Last All Winter.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 27.—D. P. Quinlan, who arrived here this afternoon on the City of Seattle, brings late news from Dawson. He says there is enough food in Dawson to last the 6,000 men now there all winter, those without food—2,000 in number—having gone to Fort Yukon. Two hundred will come out over the trails.

Major Walsh, who is now encamped at Big Salmon, will endeavor to break a trail through to Dawson, but he does not expect to reach there until February 1. He says he will allow miners to stake claims in blocks of 10, retaining the adjoining 10 for the government. All the claims on Quartz creek are now staked, and it will probably be as rich as Eldorado and Bonanza creeks.

The Seattle brought news of the death of Samuel Wyckoff, of Tacoma, December 11 at Skagway, of congestion of the brain.

The application of Bernard J. Moore for the patent of 160 acres of land, comprising a part of the townsite of Skagway, has been rejected by Register Dudley, of Sitka.

Blizzard in New York.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 27.—A blizzard is raging in Wyoming country, 40 miles south of this city. Nearly four feet of snow has fallen in the last 24 hours, and the storm continues with no sign of abatement. Roads are blocked, and the farmers are shut up in their houses. Engineers and firemen running on railroads south and southwest of Buffalo report much trouble with heavy snow drifts. The Lake Shore limited, due at Buffalo at 7:50 A. M., was blocked in four feet of snow near Angola, and was delayed two hours. The storm struck Syracuse tonight, and continued late in the night. Nearly all trains at that place were delayed.

A Widow's Pension.

Washington, Dec. 27.—A pension has been granted to the widow of Knud Knudsen, a soldier in the late war, the back pay of which aggregates over \$4,000. The man was a native of Norway, and was married to the woman who gets the pension in April, 1858. Knudsen emigrated to this country in 1861, enlisted January 27, 1862, in company H, Fifteenth regiment, Wisconsin volunteer infantry, and died in service October 16, 1863.

TO ACQUIRE MORE TERRITORY

Senator Lodge Wants Us to Buy St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A special to the Times-Herald from Washington says: Senator Lodge is preparing a bill favoring the purchase of the three islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, owned by Denmark, in the West Indies. The senate passed a resolution a year ago asking the state department to ascertain whether the islands were still for sale, at what price they were held, and whether any other country was after them. Denmark has replied that she is still willing to sell, and that two European governments are now negotiating for their purchase. These are supposed to be Great Britain and Germany. The United States has been discussing the purchase for nearly 30 years. In 1868, negotiations went so far that a treaty was negotiated for the purchase, by which this country was to pay \$8,000,000 for the islands, but it failed of ratification. It has been determined by Denmark to either sell these islands or give them away. St. Thomas has a harbor large enough to accommodate the navies of the entire world, and in view of the advantages to be gained, Senator Lodge is sanguine of securing an appropriation that will enable the islands to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Stars and Stripes. The three islands have a total of 100 square miles of territory and a population of 40,000.

INDIANS FIRED FIRS.

Special Agent Reynolds' Report on the Rount County Conflict.

Denver, Dec. 28.—The report of Special Agent E. B. Reynolds, on the recent conflict between Indians and game wardens in Rount county, is a complete vindication of Warden Wilcox and his men. Mr. Reynolds, after taking the testimony of six Indians and the 12 wardens who were in the unfortunate affair, said:

"I am fully convinced, after having examined the case fully, and after taking the testimony of both parties, after meeting the men face to face and reading their characters and noting their demeanor, that the Indians fired the first shot."

He further states that no blame whatever can by any possibility be attached to the wardens. He finds that, after the first shot, the shooting became general, and when the smoke cleared away, it was found that several Indians had been killed. The wardens declared there were six Indians shot, while the Indians say there were but three killed. Mr. Reynolds agrees with the Indians on this point.

ANOTHER SOCIETY SUICIDE.

That of Miss Annie Virginia Wells, a Friend of Miss Herbert.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The death of Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of the ex-secretary of the navy, is given as the reason of the suicide which occurred today of Miss Annie Virginia Wells, an accomplished young society woman, and daughter of Lewis S. Wells, a well-known attorney. The young woman shot herself through the heart with her brother's revolver at the residence of her father, 1311 N street. Miss Wells had met Miss Herbert a number of times, and was very much attached to her. She herself had been confined to the house for four months by illness, and this, combined with the shock caused by the death of her friend, brought on melancholia, which resulted in suicide. The dead was apparently unmeditated, and, coming immediately after the Christmas festivities in the house, completely prostrated her aged mother. Miss Wells was 33 years of age, and very beautiful.

HE INTENDED TO KILL.

But His Victim Died of Heart Failure Caused by Excitement.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—A Japanese known as Je Tagoni fired four shots at Mary Costello, a Spanish woman, in the lodging-house at 91 Sacramento street, this morning. None of the bullets struck the woman, but she dropped dead. The body bears no sign of a wound, and the physicians say death was caused by heart failure, induced by extreme excitement.

About a year ago, Tagoni opened an employment agency, and engaged Miss Costello as an assistant. By promising marriage he induced her to live with him. Recently she left the place where they had resided. After making many threats to kill her on sight, the Japanese met her today and accomplished his murderous design, though in an unexpected and sensational manner.

Diggings Near Dyea.

Dyea, Alaska, Dec. 28.—Considerable excitement prevails here at present over the reported gold finds on one of the tributaries of the Dyea river, only a mile above the town. Prospectors have been flocking in, and have staked the creek off for a distance of 10 miles. The creek has been named Boom creek, and from 200 to 300 men are now on the ground and at work.

The surface indications are excellent, running in places 25 cents to the pan, and increasing as the shafts go down. Many companies are forming, both to work claims and purchase properties. All the diggings are on American soil, and many more claims will be staked off within the next few days.

Mazzalini's Last Bullfight.

City of Mexico, Dec. 28.—The last of the series of bullfights by Mazzalini was given this afternoon, and was attended by 7,000 people. Tomas Mazzalini narrowly escaped with his life, being tossed by an infuriated bull, and going in the hand. Ten horses were killed, and six bulls, the usual number. The fight was not up to the usual standard.

Seven lions are among the pets of the sultan of Morocco.

THE ALASKAN FLEET.

Steamships Headed for the Northwest Business.

The fleet of steamships which is heading for the Pacific Northwest to participate in the Alaska rush is still receiving additions. The latest vessel reported is the British steamship Amur, which a Victoria trading company has purchased in London. The Amur is a comparatively new vessel, having been built in 1890. She is 216 feet long, 28.1 feet beam, and 11.2 feet depth of hold, and is 570 tons net register. In addition to about a dozen resurrected vessels already on this coast that will be in the Alaska service the following steamships are now reported as listed for the Pacific Northwest, some of them having already sailed: Bothnia, Scythia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Cottage City, Caracas, Conemaugh, City of Columbia, Valencia, Anur, Brixham.

Oregon Notes.

Slads are now being used on the Union-Cornucopia stage line, from a point four miles east of Medical Springs to Cornucopia, in Union county.

The heaviest surf experienced since 1884 prevailed on the Curry county beach during the storms last week. Many of the miners lost their beach fixtures.

The report of Agent Emery shows a total of 1,020 Indians on the Klamath reservation, an increase of 59 over last year. These red men have been deprived of allowances for the past 12 years, and most of them are supporting themselves well.

A Lakeview paper says that a scow, to carry freight, has been put on Goose lake, in Lake county. The scow will be fitted with sails and will be navigated as well as may be that way until gasoline engines can be put on board of her.

A Southern Pacific official says that up to December, the present season's shipment of hops out of Oregon amounted to 26,000 bales, and since that time, 5,000 more bales have gone forward, making a total of 31,000, or nearly one-half of the 1897 crop.

The city council of Salem has accepted the proposition of E. J. Swafford, ex-city treasurer, and George Williams and J. A. Baker, his bondsmen, whereby they agree to pay \$4,000 before December 31, in full payment of the balance due the city from ex-Treasurer Swafford.

Stock Inspector Vandvert, of Crook county, will soon have finished his semi-annual inspection of the sheep in Crook county. Only about 15 bands, out of about 330,000 head, remain un-inspected. In all this lot, he has only found three bands infected with scab, and heard of two others that he will inspect later.

The Brownsville Times is authority for the statement that the greater part of the hops in that vicinity are yet in the hands of the growers. Joseph and Pierce Hume and Michael Weber last week shipped their '97 crop to a New York commission house, and the hop men are anxiously awaiting the returns of this shipment.

The work of clearing out the dirt from the quarry at Point Terrace, on the Siuslaw, was finished last week. Part of the machinery has already been taken to the mouth of the river, and the rest will be placed there soon. Mr. Jacoburger, who has had charge of the work, informs the Florence West that he hopes to have all this business in Florence arranged so he can leave this week. About 45,000 tons of rock have been used and about 450 feet of jetty built this year, says the West. The channel has changed so that nearly all the water flows through the south entrance.

In the trial of Allen Logan in Dallas last week, on the charge of murdering Enoch Sylvester, the head of the dead was produced in court. The prosecution secured identification of the grow-some piece of evidence, and showed the jury fractures in the back part of the skull sufficient to cause death. The defense, however, produced as witnesses three of the physicians who had been present at the post-mortem, and established that the careful examination these physicians had made with special reference to establish the fact whether or not the blow delivered by Logan had fractured the skull, and each swore positively that at the post-mortem no such fractures were to be found. The head turned out to be a boomerang for the prosecution, and it probably contributed to the verdict in Logan's favor.

It has been many years since the tax collections of Unatilla county have showed such satisfactory footings as they do this fall. For the last two preceding years there was not an attempt made to collect the overwhelming list of delinquencies with which the books at the sheriff's office were filed, for the taxpayers were in such straits that it would have been of little avail to do so. But it remained for 1897 to be the banner year, and for the last several weeks the delinquent accounts have been rapidly paid off, until there remain but comparatively few to collect. For three years preceding the present tax collection year, the amounts of delinquencies that have been paid this fall amount to \$32,417.06, apportioned among the periods as follows: Taxes of 1895, \$23,602.75; 1894, \$7,314.31; 1893, \$1,500.

E. P. Wier, of Fossil, in Gilliam county, shipped several carloads of hogs from Fossil to Portland last week. Hoffman and Hastain, of Fossil, are purchasing hogs and turning them into bacon. Last week they received 20 head from Frank Knox that averaged 271 pounds in weight, and 10 head from J. D. Livingston that averaged 170. The prices paid were 4 cents and 3.90 per pound, live weight, respectively, which made the hogs bring over \$11 a head.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

(Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 711-714 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.)

The trade has fallen into a way of thinking that the big receipts of the past week will clean up the surplus wheat that is liable to come out at present prices. Most of this wheat is contract, when it is all in the bulls think that they will control the situation.

In the Northwest the claim is made that 80 per cent of the crop has been marketed, and that country elevator stocks are very light compared with previous years. Every one is looking for a sharp falling off in receipts after the first of the year; also for higher prices, while the situation on all sides is admittedly bullish the world over, the prices have not responded to what the bulls think the position of stocks to estimate requirements justifies. They have fixed the standard of values in their own minds, and because they are not realized they feel disappointed. Most of them are too much inclined to lose sight of the fact that the price of wheat has reached a point where substitutions of other articles cuts greatly into the consumption, and that the speculators are more solicitous as to the price and the probable supplies than the consumers.

The outlook for supplies from Argentine is uncertain, the probability being that the exportable surplus will not exceed 30,000,000 bushels. Traders lose sight of the fact that Argentine is a large country, and that unfavorable conditions will hardly exist over the entire territory.

Harvesting is now in progress, and the rains might reduce the exportable surplus. There will be little wheat to ship from Australia, but India's prospects are evidently good, judging from the free offerings in Liverpool for September. The American visible supply this week showed a larger increase than expected, being 1,051,000 bushels more than last week, and now totals 36,616,000 bushels, as compared with 54,443,000 bushels at the same time last year.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75@76c; Valley and Bluestem, 77@78c per bushel.

Four—Best grades, \$4.25; Graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$18.

Hay—Timothy, \$12.50@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—18@25c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 55@60c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 40@50c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 11½c; Young America, 12½c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; geese, \$5.50@6.50; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8@9c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35@45c per sack; sweets, \$1.40 per cential.

Onions—Oregon, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cential.

Hops—5@14c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c.

Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@22c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50; dressed mutton, 6½c; spring lambs, 5½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3.00; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 4½@6c per pound.

Veal—Large, 4½@5c; small, 5½@6c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 28c; ranch, 16@18c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 12½c; California, 9½c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 25c, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$22 per ton.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$19@20.

Corn—Whole, \$22; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$22 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5½c; mutton sheep, 7c; pork, 6c; veal, small, 7c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 5@6c; salmon, 8c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 6c; smelt, 2½@4c.

Fresh Fruit—Apples, 50c@1.25 per box; peaches, 75@80c; prunes, 35@40c; pears, 75c@1 per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound.

Hops—10@14c per pound.

Millstuffs—Middlings, \$20@23; California bran, \$17.00@18.00 per ton.

Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, \$2.00@2.25 per cential.

Eggs—Store, 24@28c; ranch, 30@34c; Eastern, 16@20c; duck, 20@25c per dozen.

Citrus Fruit—Oranges, navela, \$1.50@3.00; Mexican limes, \$2.00@3.00; California lemons, choice, \$1.50@2.00; do common, 50c@1.25 per box.

Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 12½c; fair to good, 7@8c per pound.

Hay—Wheat, 12@14; wheat and oat, \$11@14; oat, \$10@12; river barley, \$7@8; best barley, \$10@12; alfalfa, \$8.50@10; clover, \$8.50@10.

Fresh Fruit—Apples, 25c@1.25 per large box; grapes, 25@50c; Isabella, 60@75c; peaches, 50c@1; pears, 75c@1 per box; plums, 20@35c.



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