

WILL BE NEUTRAL

United States Will Recognize War Blockade.

WHEN A NOTICE IS RECEIVED

Allies Talk of United States Guaranteeing Venezuela's Payment of Award, but Will Not Get It—Dewey's Fleet Near Venezuela.

The United States will recognize the war blockade of the Venezuelan coast, which will take effect tomorrow, and will give notice of neutrality. In the meantime, Minister Bowen will proceed with peace negotiations, with which the blockade will not interfere.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—As understood here, the blockade to be declared by the allies against Venezuela on Saturday is to be a "war blockade," as contrasted with the "peaceful blockade" which has been in operation since the trouble with Venezuela assumed an acute stage.

The notice about the issue of the formal blockade of Venezuelan ports is not understood here to mean that Minister Bowen's efforts to adjust the Venezuelan difficulties have failed. It was conceived that the naval commanders of the powers were acting under explicit instructions which included the establishment of a blockade, and it was not expected that these instructions would be suspended until the negotiations through diplomatic channels had assumed a phase indicative of a final and satisfactory adjustment.

BOWEN HAS FULL POWER.

United States Will Not Guarantee Payment—France Claims Priority. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—President Castro has clothed Minister Bowen with full powers to effect a settlement with Great Britain, Germany and Italy. Mr. Bowen simply awaits the consent of the State Department to assume this task, assuming that the nations named are willing that he shall undertake this work.

Whether the consent of these governments can be obtained, will, it is said, depend entirely upon the sufficiency of any guarantee that can be given for the faithful discharge by President Castro of any obligations he may assume as regards the settlement of the French claims.

The State Department has learned that, as reported in Berlin dispatches, a mere money payment will not meet Germany's claims. Count Quast, the German charge, had a long interview with Secretary Hay today touching Venezuela, and the fact is now apparent that while money will satisfy Great Britain and Italy, Germany must have an apology.

Touching the question of a guarantee of any obligations assumed by Castro as a result of Mr. Bowen's good offices, it is suggested that the United States, being without power in the absence of legisla-

Wolfe & King

Choice Gift Books

Works that will prove welcome to those who enjoy books of travel and scenery descriptions. These are finely bound, beautifully printed in large type on heavy paper, and possess skillful pen descriptions interspersed with numerous well-selected and taking illustrations, and descriptions of Scotland, Germany, Ireland, England, India, Palestine and Egypt. Price of each 85c

The Golden Library

Beautifully bound, standard works—The House of the Wolf, by Weyman; All Aboard; by Optic; Corinne, by De Stael; Descent of Man by Darwin; Colonel Thorndyke's Secret by Henry; Her Tragic Fate, by Senkiewicz; Count of Monte Cristo, by Dumas; The Coming Race, by Bulwer, and many others, printed in clear, new type, on good paper, only 24c

Children's Christmas Books

"Life and Adventures of Santa Claus"

A very reasonable book and one which invariably proves fascinating to the little ones.

Chatterbox for 1902

A book without which many children will find their Christmas incomplete. It is to be found here in a very attractive binding.

Juvenile Series

Many stories coming in this series teach valuable lessons to the little folks, and does it both entertainingly and impressively. Notable among these are Black Beauty, Water Babies, The Animal Story Book, Child's Life of Christ, Jungle Stories, Lives of the Presidents, etc. Other stories included in this series are such well-known children's favorites as Aesop's Fables, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Andersen's Fairy Tales, Tanglewood Tales, Wonder Book and many others. All in uniform size and binding, with handsome linen cover. Publisher's price 50c, ours 30c

ORDERS TO DEWEY'S FLEET.

Best Fighting Ships Will Be Off Venezuelan Coast. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The Navy Department contributed the most important developments in the Venezuelan situation over night in the form of a cablegram from Admiral Dewey, announcing the proposed itinerary of the vessels of his fleet during the Christmas holidays. It is clearly seen that the plan prepares for no undue concentration of ships along the Venezuelan coast, and so prudently and advantageously have the details been drawn up that Secretary Moody today cabled the Admiral the department's approval of his orders. This will set at rest the rumors that the United States contemplated displacing the large force to La Guayra as an offset to the allied fleet.

LET US GIVE GUARANTEE.

Shafroth Proposes Resolution to Offer Arbitration. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Representative Shafroth, of Colorado, appeared before the committee on foreign affairs to urge action on a joint resolution which he introduced, authorizing the President to propose to England and Germany to submit their claims against Venezuela to arbitration, and to guarantee the payment of awards.

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Strange Death of Louisville Business Man Suggests Suicide. LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 18.—It developed today that R. C. Whyne, a Louisville business man, who was found dead last night in the vicinity of Jacob Park, with a gunshot wound in the breast, carried insurance on his life amounting to \$40,000, and had applications pending for \$50,000 more. The policies were distributed as follows: Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York, \$20,000; Providence Savings Life Assurance Society of New York, \$10,000; Union Central Life, \$10,000;

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All who can do so are earnestly asked to come in the morning, when selecting can be done more leisurely than in the crowded afternoon...

To aid Christmas buyers as far as possible, our store will be open evenings from Saturday (tomorrow) until Christmas eve.

This morning the greatest of all Doll sales will be held at our store. Over 2000 Dolls, in value to 65c each, will be sold at 10c each

Dollies' Perfumes Put up in fancy baskets, jugs, jars, lanterns and bottles—something a little girl will prize. Prices 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c.

Wise Presents Our elegantly finished leather suit cases, valises and cabinet bags make elegant presents that will last a long time and are sure to be appreciated.

Christmas Special Bargains

In Fancy Articles

French Lacquer Goods

In pin trays, corner brackets and match safes 9c

Fine decorations in stationery boxes, folding brackets and card holders 14c

Handsome paper racks, card receivers and trays 49c

Ink wells

In beautiful Dresden decorations 9c to 25c

Sterling Silver Novelties

Special Sale

Shoe horns, letter openers, blotters, nail files, brushes and knives, special bargains at, each 29c

Toilet Sets

Of Sterling Silver, packed in handsome cases and arranged to meet special requirements. Prices:

Writing Sets, 4 pieces and case \$1.66

Shaving Sets, 3 pieces and case 1.27

Manicure Sets, 3 pieces and case 1.27

Baby Sets, 3 pieces and case 1.27

Also beautiful sets of comb, brush, mirror and accompanying articles, in ebony or fancy cases at very attractive prices.

TRUST GAINS STRENGTH

Controls Steel and Nails, but Pig Iron Declines.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 18.—The Iron Trade Review, in its issue this week, states: The official announcement of the absorption of the new Union Steel Company, with its Donera and Shafroth plants, by the United States Steel Corporation, is the most important piece of consolidation news since the corporation itself was formed. Their acquirement strengthens the steel corporation in its hold upon the lighter lines of production and in the wire and wire-nail fields, each of which four are under construction, are thus added to the corporation's 77, the five capable of producing 500,000 tons a year. The corporation also adds to its 24 open-hearth furnaces, with a capacity of 750,000 tons a year.

With the quiet that has come upon the iron trade in this closing month of the year, there is a declining tendency in pig iron which encourages buyers to hold over their contracts until January, at least. The inability of railroads to haul iron from furnaces accounts largely for the increase in pig iron stocks shown by the statistics for December 1, the gain being about 23,000 tons over the 71,000 tons shown November 1. Producing capacity advanced from 27,550 tons a week on November 1, to 34,550 tons a week on December 1, but the snows of the past 10 days have given fresh trouble to the blast furnaces in short coke supply. A number of Central Western furnaces have again been banked.

Pig iron for early delivery shows a further decline, and is now close to the basis for the first half of 1902, which is also somewhat lower. Some Southern sellers asked for \$29 for No. 2 foundry at furnace for sheet iron, while others quote \$15 for early delivery or within the next three months, \$18 50 for second quarter of 1903, and \$13 for second half. The increasing amount of iron offered for early delivery leads consumers to hold off on later needs. While the Central West and the West are not likely to require much if any more foreign iron, unless serious railroad troubles should cut down the domestic supply in a way not now probable, there is still a demand in the East for British and German irons for foundry purposes, and in the Pittsburgh district considerable import iron was bought in the past week for prompt delivery, prices ranging from \$21 to \$21 50.

Foreign iron is weaker, and a lot of 5000 tons, Alabama forge, was sold in the past week to a large buyer at \$14 at furnace, and reported that No. 3 foundry has been offered at \$16, Birmingham, for the first quarter of next year. There is evidence here and there of some overbuying by consumers of foundry iron, occasional offerings from such sources being reported. The steel market shows more firmness, \$27 at the seaboard being now the minimum on imports, while domestic Bessemer steel is quoted at \$29 50 to \$30 Pittsburgh.

For Keeping a Fire-Trap. CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Thomas W. Miller and James McShin, proprietors of the Illinois Hotel, 511 and 513 1/2 State street, a lodging-house with 190 rooms, which is declared to be kept contrary to the build-



Silverfield's FURS The Best Xmas Gift

NOTHING but a FUR gives that smart finishing touch to the average woman, while as a gift it is certain to give pleasure and lasting satisfaction. Who would not be overjoyed if she received one of : :

SILVERFIELD'S SUPERB

SEALSKIN GARMENTS As a Xmas Gift?

An Unmatchable Display of . . .

RICH FUR BOAS

To suit every taste and every purse. All the latest exquisite conceits being shown in all the best Furs

A GREAT SHOWING IN CHILDREN'S FURS

To suit every taste and every purse. All the latest exquisite conceits being shown in all the best Furs

ARTISTIC PICTURE FRAMES MADE TO ORDER Portieres and Draperies Made to Order. Finest Workmanship

Lipman Wolfe & Co.

SALE OF RIBBONS

Brilliant Taffeta Ribbons 4 inches wide, in white, cream, red, blue, pink, maize, Nile, turquoise, lavender, Special 18c 6-inch extra soft finished Taffeta Ribbons, in pink, Nile, blue, cardinal, regular 65c, At 35c

SALE OF GAMES

Today We Offer 2000 Games, New and Popular, at Extremely Low Prices

Ping Pong The great favorite. Regular \$1.25, at 69c

Game of Postoffice, Siege of Havana, War in South Africa, London Game and others. Regular \$1.25, at 68c

Game of Across the Sea, Day at the Circus, Philippine War, Blockade Runner, Century Bicycle Race and other games. Regular 90c and \$1.00, at 50c

200 Sets of Soldiers on Parade Being 100 Soldiers in box. Regular 90c, at 50c

200 Sets of Soldiers on Parade Being 50 Soldiers in box. Regular 50c, at 25c

Game of Seal Hunting, Tiger Hunt, Fish Pond, Robber, the Kitten and others. Regular 45c and 50c. At 25c

Scroll Puzzles, Heights of San Juan, Rough Rider, Oregon, Cow, Horse and Story of Liberty. Regular price 45c and 50c. Special 25c

Dissected Map of the Philippines. Regular price 25c. Special at 10c

SALE OF DOLLS

Immense selling in Dolls these days. More worthy bargains added today to keep the interest up.

1000 10-inch Kid Dolls, bisque head, shoes and stockings. Special 5c

1000 11-inch Jointed Dolls, with bisque head. Special at 5c

Very fine 11-inch Kid Body Doll, bisque head, curly hair, opens and closes eyes, shoes and stockings. Special 29c

Fine 10-inch Kid Dolls, opens and closes eyes, shoes and stockings. Special 21c

New Foxy Grandpa Dolls, the latest out, two sizes. Special 19c and 25c

19-inch Kid Body Doll, fine bisque head; shoes and stockings, curly hair. Special 89c

19-inch Jointed Dolls, bisque head, opens and closes eyes, shoes and stockings. Special at 58c

21-inch Jointed Dolls, bisque head, opens and closes eyes, shoes and stockings. Special 98c

Fine Talking Dolls, jointed, bisque head, curly hair, opens and closes eyes. Special 50c

Fine Rag Dolls, neatly dressed, assorted styles. Regular 25c, special 15c

Large Rag Dolls, in assorted styles of dresses, very pretty. Special 25c

They Are in Again

Souvenir Views of Portland and Columbia, 3 in., in oval, square or round panels, special 15c

LEATHER GOODS

A great gathering of all that is new and attractive in fine Leather Goods, and a special attraction today of 50 SUIT CASES

Made of olive brown cowhide, some of the suit cases leather lined, some canvas lined, some satin lined. Regular \$7.50 to \$9.00. \$5.95 at special

MUSIC STORE

The Bostonians in Maid Marion

Week After Next

A beautiful DeKoven opera—we have all the music, selections and score. Maid Marion Score. Maid Marion Instrumental Selections. Maid Marion Waltzes—and the following songs—The Cellarer's Toast. Song of the Falcon. Under the Mistletoe Bough.

All Dress Goods Reduced

Our Entire Stock of Colored Dress Goods Our Entire Stock of Black Dress Goods

\$1.00 Quality at \$.85 1.25 Quality at 1.07 1.50 Quality at 1.28 1.75 Quality at 1.45 2.00 Quality at 1.65 2.25 Quality at 1.87

\$2.50 Quality at \$2.12 2.75 Quality at 2.30 3.00 Quality at 2.50 3.50 Quality at 2.95 4.00 Quality at 3.38 5.00 Quality at 4.20

Shrewd buyers see opportunities for Xmas gifts of Dress Goods at advantageous prices.

Sale of Silks

\$.85 Black Taffeta at \$.73 1.25 Black Guaranteed Peau de Sole at97 1.50 Black Peau de Sole at 1.19 1.50 Black Armure at 1.19 1.50 Black Satin Duchesse at 1.19 1.25 Black Velvet at95 1.00 Black Liberty Satin at79 2.50 Black Satin Duchesse at 1.90