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NEW PATRIOTIC LEAGUE. Will Derive Its Creed From Notable Sayings of McKinley.

PIANO FACTORY BURNED. Half Million Lost—Panic in Adjoining Buildings.
NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Fire that started from an unknown cause tonight in the big seven-story piano factory of Ernest Gabler Bros., in East Twenty-second street, did damage to the extent of \$500,000. The factory was almost entirely destroyed. The tenements were driven from adjoining tenement houses and a panic ensued among the inmates of the New York Trust School in East Twenty-first street, directly in the rear of the factory. The school building was removed to a place of safety by the police. A watchman was somewhat burned and a pedestrian was struck by a truck and has a fractured skull. Ernest E. Gabler, a member of the piano manufacturing firm, thought the loss would approach a half million dollars. This is the third time the firm has suffered from fire. Two hundred men are thrown out of work.

Fraud in a Trust Company. CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—William M. Bristol was sentenced today in the Federal Court to a year in the County Jail for fraudulent use of the mails in connection with the Surety Guarantee & Trust Company, of which he was manager. John R. Prime, ex-Adjutant-General of Iowa, claimed to have been swindled out of \$100,000 through the false representations made by Bristol as to the financial standing of the concern.

Bought by Steel Trust. CHAMPION, Mich., Dec. 22.—The United States Steel Corporation has purchased the Champion mine, at this place, and the large tract adjoining iron ore lands for a consideration said to be \$3,000,000.

MAY NOT ACCEPT

Roosevelt Does Not Like Allies' Move.

THEY ONLY "SOUNDED" HIM

He Thinks the Hague Tribunal Should Arbitrate.

TAKES COUNSEL WITH HAY

Allies Desire to Make United States Responsible for Venezuela's Payment of Award—Shrewd Move Came From Germany.

President Roosevelt has not yet accepted the invitation to arbitrate between Venezuela and the allies. The invitation has not been formally made, but he has been "sounded." He is inclined to refuse and to suggest that the tribunal at the Hague is the proper court to decide. Should the allies insist, he may accept, although he realizes the difficulties of the undertaking. The suggestion that he be named as arbitrator came from Germany, and was received by Secretary Hay, who has referred the matter to the Hague tribunal.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—President Roosevelt has not accepted the position of arbitrator of the Venezuelan controversy. In fact, when the official day closed he had not received formally or officially a request from the European powers that he act as arbitrator of the dispute. These statements are made on the highest authority.

In an informal manner the President has been notified that the European powers intimately concerned in the present South American difficulty desire that he should undertake the responsibility of acting as arbitrator of the points at issue between them and Venezuela. Thus far they merely have been "taking soundings," with a view, probably, of ascertaining how he would receive a formal proposal to act as arbitrator. The President, as soon as he received the first intimation that he was desired to be arbitrator of the Venezuelan controversy, expressed emphatically his judgment that the matter to be arbitrated should be referred to the Hague tribunal. His views on the suggestions made have been conveyed to the European powers, together with a strong presentation of his reasons for the view he holds. No response of a formal nature to these representations has been received.

Still Opposed to Serving.
The President and Secretary Hay had a long conference today after the former's return from his Virginia trip. They carefully went over the situation as it had developed since Saturday, but it is understood that nothing has arisen during the past 48 hours to warrant the President in changing his opinion as to the undesirability of his acceptance of the position of arbitrator. So far as can be learned, no specific reasons have been advanced by the European powers for objecting to a reference of the Venezuelan questions to the arbitration of the Hague tribunal. It is held by the Administration that the tribunal at the Hague was constituted to arbitrate just such controversies as that which has arisen between Venezuela and the powers, and that it would be desirable from this viewpoint that the dispute should go to that tribunal for adjudication.

May Accept the Hague Court.
How strong are the objections which the allied powers have to a reference of the Venezuelan difficulty to the Hague tribunal is not known to the Administration at this time. Even the nature of the objections, if there be any, is not known. The negotiations looking to the selection of an arbitrator have not progressed sufficiently yet to develop such objections, as the powers may have.

The acceptance by the powers of the principle of arbitration as applied to the Venezuelan question is a matter of great gratification to the President and his Cabinet. That all the powers have intimated, too, that they would prefer the President should arbitrate the present dispute is taken as a notable compliment to the President personally, and to his Administration. It is the hope of both the President and his advisers, however, that while there is precedent for his acceptance of the post of arbitrator, the powers will consent to a reference of the controversial matters in the Venezuelan question to the tribunal at the Hague.

While it is recognized by the President's closest advisers and by the President himself that some unpleasant possibilities might attend his performance of the duties of arbitrator of the pending Venezuelan difficulty, his friends assert that he will shirk no responsibility that he may deem it his duty to undertake, but will accept if the powers should insist on it, though he is very reluctant to do so.

FORMAL REQUEST TO ROOSEVELT.
To Arbitrate With Venezuela—Allies Think Castro Would Then Pay.
BERLIN, Dec. 22.—The formal offer of Germany and Great Britain yesterday inviting President Roosevelt to act as arbitrator in the Venezuelan dispute were handed to the United States Ambassador here and to the United States Charge in London today.

The blockade of the Venezuelan coast will continue until a definite arrangement for arbitration has been reached. Germany will be well satisfied if President Roosevelt undertakes the task. His acceptance would be considered a sufficient

guarantee that Venezuela would pay if she lost. Asking President Roosevelt to arbitrate was the Emperor's suggestion. An indirect inquiry three or four days ago not eliciting a refusal from the President, a request has been made in direct form.

Although Germany is ready to submit her case to any impartial tribunal, she would prefer President Roosevelt for the reason that President Castro is more likely to accept the decision of the President of the United States than that of the Hague tribunal. If President Castro evades payment under President Roosevelt's award, the people of the United States it is believed here would show positive pleasure so the allies compel him to pay up.

The United States is considered here as emerging from the affair with all credit. The Monroe Doctrine has been acknowledged by two of the greatest powers of Europe. President Roosevelt has been accepted as arbitrator by all the parties concerned, and the South American states have been permitted by Great Britain and the United States to be the only power between them and Europe.

The only annoying thing to the German government has been the alleged readiness of America to suspect Germany of secret designs. The reported extraordinary distrust of Germany has been a painful surprise to the Emperor and to the Cabinet.

GERMANY LED THE WAY.

Roosevelt Was Selected Undoubtedly at Her Suggestion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—It is quite evident from the developments here that Germany is the originator and promoter of the suggestion that President Roosevelt act as arbitrator. Great Britain and Italy, it is believed, inclined toward arbitration by the Hague tribunal, but, of course, they would not indicate any preference officially in the matter if President Roosevelt gave the faintest intimation of accepting the charge. Indeed, during the allies stand on record as supporting the German lead in this matter.

Advices have been received here from Rome that the former Italian Minister at Caracas, Mr. Blava, will return here at once, and that Baron Altiotti, who was formerly attached to the Italian Embassy here, will remain on board the Italian warship *Giovanni Bassano*, and in the event of a renewal of diplomatic negotiations between Italy and Venezuela, will become Charge d'Affaires. Secretary Hay was informed of this fact by Signor Meyer, of the Italian Embassy. Baron Altiotti made many visits during his stay in Washington, and is regarded as a thoroughly competent for his new charge.

Italy Agrees With Her Allies.

ROME, Dec. 22.—The reply of the Italian government concerning the proposal that President Roosevelt arbitrate the Venezuelan issues will be handed to Ambassador Meyer today. It is believed the Italian communication will express views identical with those held by Great Britain and Germany.

Holland Will Remain Neutral.

THE HAGUE, Dec. 22.—The government of the Netherlands has decided to observe a strictly neutral attitude in the Venezuelan trouble. Ships of the blockading powers will be prohibited from calling at ports of the Dutch coast.

THE SICK AND THE DEAD

Cornelius Vanderbilt Still Seriously Ill, but Slightly Better.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Though no authoritative statement could be obtained as to the condition of Cornelius Vanderbilt at 7 o'clock this morning, it was said at the house that the encouraging symptoms of the last two days had continued, and that hope was entertained that Vanderbilt's recovery. At 8:45 the physicians made public the following:
"Mr. Vanderbilt had a very restless night, and is still seriously ill. His general condition and temperature remain about the same. Any slight changes, perhaps, are on the side of improvement."
This afternoon Dr. DeLafont, in answer to a question as to Mr. Vanderbilt's condition, said:
"He is getting along, but is still critically ill."
"How about the peritonitis?"
"He has not any."
The usual early evening consultation of the physicians was not held tonight. Dr. Flint said he thought no bulletins would be posted before tomorrow. Dr. DeLafont said tonight:
"Mr. Vanderbilt is better, but he is still a very sick man. He will continue to be critically ill for a week, and is not yet out of danger. The peritonitis, however, has been entirely eliminated, and there is every reason to believe that he will recover."

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—When Dr. Flint left the Vanderbilt house shortly after midnight he said:

"Mr. Vanderbilt is easy in every way. His temperature is in the neighborhood of 100 degrees, and his pulse is normal. The general tone of Dr. Flint's announcement was very favorable."

Great Nerve Specialist Dead.

VIENNA, Dec. 22.—Professor Baron Krausz, of the University of Vienna, the celebrated nerve specialist, is dead at Graz, Styria. He was at one time an adherent of Professor Lombroso, but later held views antagonistic to those of the Italian scientist.

Well-Known Lumberman Dead.

AUSAU, Wis., Dec. 22.—Edward Augustus Forster, a retired lumberman, dropped dead at his home in this city of apoplexy, aged 70 years. He was well known in Wisconsin and Michigan, and on the Pacific Coast.

Judge Giffen, of Iowa, Dead.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., Dec. 22.—James D. Giffen, ex-District Judge, prominent pioneer lawyer and Republican politician, died suddenly today at his home in Marion from heart failure. He was 63 years of age.

Dies of Apoplexy.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 22.—J. M. Deutsch, a wealthy furniture manufacturer of Hornsells, N. Y., who came here for his health, was found dead in bed at the Windsor Hotel. Deutsch's death was due to apoplexy.

Distinguished Lawyer Dead.

MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., Dec. 22.—Robert M. Hale, of Grinnell, president of the Iowa State Bar Association, died today, aged 52.

Loubet Joins the Cincinnati.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Asa Bird Gardiner, president of the Rhode Island State Society of the Order of the Cincinnati, has returned from the Cincinnati, where he accepted of honorary membership in the order. The President said it was doubly agreeable to him as a souvenir of the glorious alliance of arms which united the two nations in the War of the American Revolution, and as a new and peculiar testimony of the bonds of friendship which have never ceased to exist between France and the United States.

WE MUST FIGHT

In Order to Maintain Monroe Doctrine.

SENATOR BACON'S OPINION

Ultior Purpose in Allied Attack on Venezuela.

TO INFRINGE ON MONROEISM

Member of Foreign Relations Committee Thinks Next Step of Great Powers Will Force United States to Fight for the Principle.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Senator Bacon, of Georgia, member of the committee on foreign relations, thinks that the United States has reached a point where the Monroe Doctrine must either be abandoned or modified, or that the United States must fight for it. After describing the various conditions, he says the latter is the only course, as it will never be changed or abandoned.

He thinks Germany and Great Britain have had an ulterior purpose in their attack upon Venezuela, and that it means an infringement upon the Monroe Doctrine, with the view of seeing how far the United States will allow them to go. While the present difficulty may not result in war, when the time comes for the next step of a similar character, the European powers will be more aggressive and will infringe upon the Monroe Doctrine to a still greater extent, and then force the United States to act. The Georgia Senator adds:

"I am satisfied that Senators generally, regardless of political opinions, have retreated themselves from expressions upon this question because they recognize that it is grave, and that they have not wished to add to the difficulties of the situation by any intemperate speech. This attitude, perhaps, has been misunderstood abroad. Our silence has not been a means in the nature of acquiescence.

"Every one recognizes the right of a government to collect its debts from another government, but in this case it appears to me that Great Britain and Germany have gone too far."

LET IN THE PACIFIC MAIL.

Object of Proposed Sale of Transpacific to San Francisco Company.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 22.—While there is more or less talk here to the effect that Secretary Root intends to readvertise in San Francisco for bids on the Government transportation business, with a view of placing all or a part of the shipments of troops and supplies from that port in the hands of commercial lines, it is not believed that such a step will be taken immediately, or, if taken, that the contracts made thereunder would become operative before July 1 next.

It is believed that the conference between Secretary Root and various San Francisco interests since the award to the Boston Steamship Company have been with a view to devising a plan whereby the Pacific Mail Line can acquire the transports, or a part of them, to place on its Oriental run, in order that they may handle Government business. With its present equipment it cannot take the extra trade. Any attempt to sell or lease transports at San Francisco only will lead to a protest from Puget Sound, as the Boston Steamship Company made a favorable proposition to buy or lease prior to any such offer from the California metropol. If there is to be a sale, the Puget Sound interests insist that they shall have opportunity to acquire a part of the Government ships.

OREGON THE BEST TYPE.

Hale Opposes Bigger Battle-Ships and Will Not Be Stampeded.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 22.—Senator Hale, chairman of the naval affairs committee, does not intend to let the Venezuelan situation stampede him in the matter of rapidly increasing the fighting strength of the United States at sea. He says he sees nothing in the conditions warranting the change of policy on the part of the United States, and declares that Congress should not be impressed with popular clamor growing out of any temporary excitement.

"The Navy will be increased each year, as it has been in the past, he says, but no large increase will be made at this session of Congress. He does not believe that the large battle-ships of 16,000 tons are of so much advantage as ships of smaller tonnage and greater speed.

"At the same time," said the Senator, "it seems to me that experience has taught us that smaller battle-ships and armored cruisers are much more serviceable in time of war than those of larger tonnage. We can build three Oregons for what it will cost to construct the Connecticut, already authorized."

MUCH WORK FOR OREGON.

Moody Gets Rural Mail Routes—No Appointment for Gantenbein.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 22.—Representative Moody has laid out for himself considerable work in the departments in Washington that will consume all of his holidays save Christmas day, which he will spend with relatives in Philadelphia. He is clearing up matters that have accumulated because of the numerous committee meetings that were held during the early weeks of Congress.

establishment of five rural free delivery routes, to go into effect February 1, three at Gresham and one at Lents, Multnomah County, and one at Alcol, Union County. He has reviewed the records of several contractors on star routes in Eastern Oregon, where the question has been raised as to their compliance with the law. The route from The Dalles to Shaniko is being served under contract with B. F. Miller, but F. M. Lawson is performing the service under subcontract. The department has become convinced that Miller merely lent his name to speculators in order that they could secure this contract, and has accordingly called upon him to show cause why he should not be deprived of his contract. If this is done, the contract will probably go direct to Lawson. There are a number of other cases under investigation to determine whether the contractors, really live on their routes, or have sublet or acquired contracts by fraudulent means.

Representative Moody called at the War Department to urge the appointment of Adjutant-General C. U. Gantenbein, of the Oregon National Guard, to a vacancy in the Judge-Advocate's department of the regular Army, but was told the place had been filled. Gantenbein is highly regarded by the department, and his record is one of the best, but, like other competent applicants, he had to give way to a regular Army man. He still remains on the eligible list for appointment as Judge-Advocate, which carries the rank and pay of Major.

TEN HOURS IN THE SNOW

Adventure of Burlington Passengers—Blockade Is Raised.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 22.—Fifty passengers on train No. 302, of the Burlington, running from Denver to Deadwood, were buried beneath 10 feet of snow for 24 hours. They were rescued last night, after 10 hours work by a relief force sent from Sidney, Neb. The relief force numbered 50 persons.

The little town of Mercer, Neb., was the home of the snowbound travelers for the 19 hours. The place is only a cluster of about 10 houses and shanties, and the train was obliged to remain beneath the snow until aid could be secured from Sidney, 15 miles away.

DELAYED TRAINS ARRIVE.

Blockade Due to Blizzard on the Prairies Is Broken.

OMAHA, Dec. 22.—The passenger trains which were blockaded by the blizzard in the western part of the state began to arrive this morning from five to 60 hours late. The Union Pacific & Burlington trains were badly delayed by the blockade. At Union Pacific headquarters it was stated that the blockade had been removed last night.

Snow Melting Fast.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 22.—The snow blockade on the Union Pacific between Cheyenne and Sidney, Neb., was raised last night, and trains are now moving. The road from Cheyenne west is clear. As a storm is melting fast on the range, the losses of livestock will probably be less than was anticipated.

Floods Stop Coal Mining.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—At the office of the Reading Company today it was announced that four of the company's coal mines in the Schuylkill region are flooded as a result of the recent heavy rains. Work in several other operations is seriously handicapped. The company's officials were unable to say when work would be resumed.

Forefathers' Day Is Observed.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—The New England Society of Pennsylvania observed Forefathers' Day by giving the usual annual dinner tonight at Horticultural Hall. Assistant Attorney-General James M. Beck, president of the society, acted as toastmaster. Senator Hoar answered the historic toast, "For our Forefathers." Postmaster-General Charles Emory Smith told of New England men in the Presidential Cabinet. Senator Foster, of Washington, responded to the toast "New England in the West"; Senator Platt, of Connecticut, spoke of "New England in the Senate"; and Congressman Littlefield of "New England in the House."

CONTENTS OF TODAY'S PAPER

National Affairs.
President Roosevelt disposed to decline arbitration of Venezuelan dispute. Page 1.
Federal Supreme Court renders important decision on life insurance. Page 5.
Senator Bacon declares that United States will have to fight for Monroe doctrine. Page 1.

Domestic.
Deaths in Byron train wreck reach a total of 25. Page 11.
Terrible tragedy on the Atlantic Ocean. Page 2.
Mascagni abandons tour, a heavy loser in pocket and health. Page 11.
Fire destroys a large piano factory in New York. Page 1.

Foreign.
Food supply begins to grow short in Caracas, in consequence of the blockade. Page 2.
Bolivian troops defeat rebels in new republic of Acre. Page 2.
Bolsheviks break out on Pacific coast of Mexico. Page 11.
Honor paid Minister Duck in Japan. Page 11.
Crown Prince of Saxony seen from her faithful husband and named by funeral. Page 1.
Trial of the Humberts promises a political upheaval in France. Page 1.

Pacific Coast.
Marion County Bar Association will ask Legislature to restore grand jury system in criminal cases. Page 4.
Supreme Court declares the Holman will be valid. Page 4.
Bids are opened at Vancouver for erection of soldier's quarters at the barracks. Page 4.
Affairs of Oregon at the National capital. Page 1.
Fine imposed on Portland postal clerk detained in Washington. Page 11.

Sports.
Pacific Coast League magnates meet. Page 5.
Football men train for gridiron battle. Page 5.
Feetish denies Monroe hit him, but the Butte man contradicts him. Page 12.
American League appoints committee to attend peace conference. Page 11.

Commercial and Marine.
Reason for the advance in German hop market. Page 12.
First sale of shipping combine stock at New York. Page 12.
Chicago wheat closes higher on small increase in the visible supply. Page 12.
Rough trip of a lumber schooner down the coast from Gray's Harbor. Page 12.

Portland and Vicinity.
President Roosevelt to break ground and lay base of Lewis and Clark monument. Page 10.
Flour combine progresses steadily. Page 14.
No legal obstacles to building part of Portland drydock at Vancouver. Page 10.
Food and Dairy Commissioner makes biennial report. Page 8.

Mayor Williams favors licensing all saloons. Page 8.
Highway robbers steal \$124. Page 14.

PRINCESS IS LOST

Europe Seeking Future Queen of Saxony.

COURT SCANDAL REVEALED

Crown Prince Loves Actress More Than Her.

SHE DISAPPEARS AT NIGHT

Leaving a Dummy in Her Bed, She Flees From Salzburg Castle—Theory of Suicide Rejected and Elopement Suggested.

DRESDEN, Saxony, Dec. 22.—The Crown Princess of Saxony fled from her home on the night of December 11. The Dresden Journal says today:

"The Princess, in a state of intense mental excitement, suddenly deserted her family at Salzburg and went abroad. The Saxon court functions for the Winter, including the New Year's reception, have been canceled."

The foregoing paragraph in today's official journal, which was inserted by order of the King and Crown Prince of Saxony, has turned into truth that which for several days past has been regarded as an incredible rumor. The Crown Princess of Saxony, surrounded by her ladies in waiting and numerous attendants and servants, was vanished so utterly that the police of every kingdom in Europe have for 10 days been unable to trace her. The official announcement was in order to obtain the aid of the general public in finding her and because the court fiction that she preferred to remain in retirement at Salzburg rather than to return to her husband and children at Dresden cannot longer be maintained.

Does What She Pleases.

Accompanied by the Crown Prince, the Princess went to the castle of Emperor Francis Joseph, near Salzburg, a month ago. A week after their arrival at the castle the Prince broke his leg while hunting, and was brought back to Dresden. The Princess, however, remained at the castle. Why she did so the people of the court did not know, except that with gloomy tenacity the Princess usually does what she pleases.

For a little while this explanation sufficed; then fragments of gossip began to reach Dresden. It was said that the Princess had surrendered herself to periods of nervous excitement, and that her eccentricities of deportment caused much concern to her suite and to some of her Austrian kinsfolk who were staying in the castle with her. It is now believed that she was under surveillance, and that, if this is true, it makes her disappearance the more extraordinary.

Dummy in Her Bed.

The narrative of the events at Salzburg during the night of December 11-12, as told in Dresden, is that the Princess, who appeared to be in an unusually tranquil mood, retired before 11 o'clock. Three hours later, when a maid looked into the room, something in the appearance of the bed prompted her to go closer and examine it. Instead of the Princess, the maid perceived a dummy figure. She awakened the ladies in waiting and the latter, with other members of the Princess' suite, searched all the neighboring apartments, the entire castle and finally the grounds of the castle, for the Princess, but no trace of the missing woman was found.

At dawn the police of Salzburg were informed of the disappearance, and inquiries were made throughout the whole countryside, but with no tangible result. A number of what had seemed to be traces of the Queen were shown to be without foundation upon careful examination by the police. The inquiry by the end of that day had extended to all parts of the Kingdom of Saxony, and, on authority from Dresden, by the end of the second day, to all of Europe.

The theory of suicide was suggested and a fruitless search for the Princess' body has been made, although ponds and other pieces of water in the vicinity of the castle have been dragged without result. The disappearance of the Princess doubtless will cause the circulation of many stories. It is already related that she eloped, but inquiries made here have brought out nothing to substantiate or support this statement.

HER HUSBAND FAITHLESS.

His Relations With an Actress Cause Domestic Discord.

VIENNA, Dec. 22.—The flight of the Crown Princess of Saxony has caused great excitement here. It is reported that Archduke Ferdinand, accompanied by one of the court chamberlains, went to Geneva, whither it was supposed the Princess had fled, but he failed to find any trace of her. The Princess' brother, the Archduke Leopold Ferdinand, is said to be with her, but nothing can be ascertained as to her whereabouts.

It is officially explained that the Princess' disappearance is due to mental derangement. There is little doubt, however, that it was caused by domestic discord growing out of her husband's relations with an actress of the Dresden Court Theater. It is asserted here that the Princess frequently threatened flight on this account, and that she was incensed with her father, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, for counselling her to forgive her husband. She is said to be enclenched. It is rumored here tonight that the Princess was accompanied by the French tutor of her children.

Mayor for the Fourth Time.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 22.—Senor Gutierrez Landayá Escudon has been re-elected Mayor of the city for the fourth time.