

CORVALLIS GAZETTE



WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON,

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1902.

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EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week. Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Miners continue to spring damaging testimony against the coal operators. A fruit company with a capital of \$4,500,000 has been organized in California.

John D. Rockefeller has contributed another million to the University of Chicago.

Germany approves of the United States' protest against the Venezuelan blockade.

Ohio River rose 12 feet in 24 hours and swept away coal-laden barges valued at \$50,000.

Trainwreckers removed a rail from an Alabama road and caused a bad wreck. No fatalities.

A coroner's jury decided that Mrs. Mary Collins, of Seattle, was murdered by strangulation.

A British collier sank during a storm in the English Channel and 16 men went down with her.

Venezuelan troops were twice defeated by revolutionary forces, who are now advancing on Caracas.

The house has passed the senate bill appropriating \$22,000 for a lighthouse at Mukilteo Point, Wash.

A noted Umatilla chief named Five Crows was found near Athena, Ore. He was drunk when last seen alive.

Secretary of War has sent to congress an estimate of \$60,000 for a new hospital at Vancouver barracks, Wash.

A company of crack rifle shots is being organized among mountaineers in Montana to go to the aid of President Castro.

Admiral Dewey has been ordered to keep his fleet together near Venezuela, presumably to escort American ships through the "peaceful blockade" of La Guayra.

President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, testifies before strike commission that operators are directly responsible for importation of ignorant foreigners.

The Japanese government has ordered several large X-ray machines to be used in the mint for photographing employees who are suspected of swallowing coins. The coins show plainly on the photographic plate.

Severe cold weather in Austria is causing acute suffering.

The strike commission may investigate freight rates on coal.

The Alaska salmon pack for 1902 will amount to 2,470,000 cases or more than the pack of 1901.

Martin Tower of Marshfield, has been appointed collector of customs for the Coos Bay district.

Hon. Solomon Hirsch, a pioneer merchant of Portland, legislator and ex-minister to Turkey, is dead.

A Columbian steamer, carrying a large number of soldiers, was wrecked and nearly all on board drowned.

New York continues without enough coal to meet the demands. At present 50,000 tons a day are consumed.

The Marseilles strike is practically over. The men are returning to their old places without gaining any of their demands.

Three men attempted to hold up an Alford, Tex. The officers had been notified and were waiting for them. One of the robbers was killed, another seriously wounded and the third is in custody.

Germany, though its claims are clear, is willing to arbitrate the Venezuelan trouble.

The new army staff bill, if passed, will not be effective until the retirement of General Miles.

Italy has taken a hand in the Venezuelan affair and has demanded the same treatment as England and Germany.

Coal shortage in Nebraska is causing intense suffering, aggravated by the extreme cold weather prevailing throughout the state.

A joint resolution has been introduced in congress changing the term of president, making the term begin at noon April 30, instead of March 4.

The president has appointed Lloyd Griscom, jr., now minister to Persia, to be minister to Japan. He has also selected Richmond Pearson, of North Carolina, at present consul general at Teheran, Persia, to succeed Mr. Griscom.

The announcement is made that Marconi has another invention, which he expects will startle the world. He will not formally announce it until the wireless experiments are completed, which he says will be before the end of the year.

Spain is trying to buy warships from foreign powers.

The first blizzard of the winter has swept Iowa and Nebraska.

Ice forming on the "third" rail of the New York elevated roads has stopped all trains.

A Rock Island passenger train was wrecked by a broken rail near Terrill, Tex., and the engineer and fireman killed.

Fire destroyed a five story building at Scranton, Pa., in which was located a wholesale grocery firm. The loss will amount to \$175,000.

ANOTHER SURPRISE.

Middlemen Getting \$11 to \$12 Per Ton for Coal While Poor Are Freezing.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 18.—When the coal strike commission met yesterday Chairman Gray opened the proceedings by saying that the commissioners were impressed with the spectacle of the little girls who were before the commission yesterday and testified that they worked all night. He said the people of the community and citizens of the commonwealth should not let the incident pass without taking some steps to have the Legislature of Pennsylvania seriously consider the enactment of a law that will forbid the employment of children at night. At the suggestion of the commission the statements of the wages of the fathers of two of the girls were presented. One earned more than \$1000 last year and the other over \$900.

The miners sprung another surprise by presenting an individual operator on the witness stand against the operators. He was John C. Haddock, of Wilkesbarre, president of the Plymouth Coal Company. Mr. Haddock, in answer to questions put to him by C. S. Darrow, for the miners, said he had been in the coal business 35 years. His company operated the Black Diamond and Dodson mines near Wilkesbarre. He said his company went into the hands of receivers on March 1, and on November 14 trustees took hold of the property. Mr. Haddock then explained that the miners' ton, which runs from 2700 to 3200 pounds, was fixed years ago so that the employer could get out of the ton 2240 pounds of pure coal above the size of pea. Pea coal and all sizes below that was waste. This is now being utilized.

Regarding the price of coal Mr. Haddock said the middlemen in New York are paying \$11 and \$12 a ton. Judge Gray—"Do they pay the operators that price?" "Possibly."

MURDERERS SENTENCED.

Oscar Bradshaw Must Suffer Death—Kellett Gets 20 Years.

Walla Walla, Wash., Dec. 18.—Under sentence of death to be carried out, at the state penitentiary, Oscar Bradshaw, a young man, arrived in the city yesterday morning in charge of Sheriff I. J. Davis, of Franklin County. Bradshaw was sentenced to death at Pasco by Judge Rudkin, of North Yakima, for the murder of Peter Nelson, at Pasco, last July. The death penalty is to be inflicted February 2, unless an appeal to the Supreme Court is perfected. With Bradshaw came William Kellett, a much older man, under sentence of 20 years at hard labor, for the part he took in the murder of Nelson. Bradshaw was tried December 3 and 4, and a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree was entered by the jury after a strong effort for a lighter verdict. Upon the action of the jury being announced to Kellett he asked to be allowed to plead guilty to murder in the second degree. After the state had advised in the matter the plea was accepted, and the sentence of 20 years inflicted by Judge Rudkin yesterday.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CASTRO.

Crack Shots and Old Mountain Men from Montana Will Join Venezuelans.

Butte, Mont., Dec. 18.—It is stated on what appears to be good authority that a filibustering party is being organized in Butte to go to Venezuela. It is said, at least, that an alleged "Josh" story in the Inter-Mountain, concerning a party of Montana filibusters, who are organizing to go to Venezuela, is really based upon fact. A number of Butte men have already enlisted. The men conducting the scheme are keeping it quiet. But it is said at least one well-known company, all crack-shots, and old mountain men, will go South in a few days. A number of Spanish war veterans and several veterans of the Fenian invasion of Canada are among the men enlisted.

CONTINUE TO RUN TRANSPORTS.

Ludington Advising House Committee Against Contract System.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Quarter-master-General Ludington of the Army, before the House committee on military affairs, today advocated continuing the transport service under the control of the War Department. He said the cost of the service as now conducted is about \$3000 less than any of the estimates submitted by private concerns, but said that in his opinion it would be in the interest of the soldier and service for the War Department to operate its own line. General Ludington, speaking of number of carrying private parties on the Government transports, said the number was insignificant and that where abuses had occurred in that direction they already had been corrected.

A Western Philanthropist.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 18.—A deed was recorded yesterday, whereby South Park, formerly a Summer resort, situated 13 miles from Louisville, passed into the hands of William H. Beach, a Los Angeles, Cal., capitalist. It is stated that he will convert part of the property into a Summer resort and another part into a children's home, where abandoned waifs will be given every care and attention. The place contains about 300 acres of land and a 25-acre lake.

Russians Raised Wheat in Alaska.

Tacoma, Dec. 18.—That wheat was grown in Alaska by the Russians a fact which has been proved by the discovery of two old flour mills built by the subjects of the Czar. One of these is on Wood Island, in Southeastern Alaska, and the other in the interior. The former was built and investigated by R. B. Taylor. He says the old flour mill was built early in the last century.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

Eastern Oregon Wants Law Prohibiting Sheep Herding Within Two Miles of Habitations—Wasco is Refused Rural Mail Routes—Linn County Sportsmen Favor More Stringent Game Laws.

Commissioner Hermann has recommended the repeal of the lieue land law.

The Multnomah club of Portland has commenced arrangements for holding a street fair.

Three men have been arrested at Ashland charged with the recent Grants Pass stage hold-up.

The present session of congress will not be asked for a government appropriation for the 1905 fair.

F. S. Ingram, who is circulating a petition asking for aid from the state legislature, is securing many signatures. He has in the neighborhood of 400. Very few people refuse to sign.

Linn county sportsmen are taking active measures to secure the enactment of better game laws. All concur in the opinion that hunting for the market should be entirely prohibited.

E. C. Clement, special agent of rural free delivery, after viewing two rural free delivery routes out of Wasco, states that he is not able to approve the petitions. The reason given is that there are not the required number of families within the 50 miles of territory covered by the two petitions.

There is a petition being circulated in the eastern part of the state asking the legislature to enact a law prohibiting the herding of sheep within a distance of two miles of any habitation. It is being pressed by cattlemen in the main although a great many business men who are not interested in stock are signing. Idaho and California have such laws.

Senator Mitchell called the attention of Commissioner of Pensions Ware to the number of applications for pensions under the Indian war veteran act of the last session which have not as yet been granted. The commissioner states that considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting the military service of the claimants but he hopes to have all straightened up shortly.

Free delivery of mail will commence in Albany March 1, 1903.

An Odd Fellows lodge has been instituted at Durkee, Eastern Oregon. There are about 30 members.

Probably the largest shipment of wool ever made from independence at one time occurred last week. H. A. Doudy shipped direct to Boston 120,000 pounds of wool. The shipment made up almost 10 freight cars.

The Linn county jail walls will be lined with three-sixteenths inch steel plates. The ceiling will also be covered with a network of steel bars. These improvements to the jail have been made necessary by numerous jail breaks in the past two years.

The new Oregon code, compiled by Judge C. B. Bellinger and W. W. Cotton, has been issued. This code was authorized by the last legislature and will hereafter be used in the courts in place of the codes heretofore in use. One thousand copies will be delivered to the secretary of state.

There is a movement on foot to divide the Eighth judicial district, consisting of Baker, Umatilla and Walla Walla counties into two districts. Union and Walla Walla will constitute one, and Baker county will be constituted a judicial district by itself, if the plan is carried out. The reason for the change is that the district is so populous that there is too much for one judge to do.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70¢71¢; blue stem 78¢79¢; valley, 75¢76¢.
Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$24.00.
Flour—Best grade, 3.60¢4.10; Graham, \$3.20¢3.60.
Millet—Bran, \$19.00 per ton; middlings, \$23.50; shorts, \$19.50; chop, \$18.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15¢1.17¢; gray, \$1.12¢1.15¢ per cental.
Hay—Timothy, \$10¢11¢; clover, \$9.00; cheat, \$8¢ per ton.
Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60¢70¢ per sack; ordinary, 50¢60¢ per cental; growers' prices; Merced sweets, \$1.75¢2 per cental.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 11¢; young, 10¢; hens, 11¢11½¢; turkeys, live, 13¢14¢; dressed, 15¢17¢; ducks, \$5¢6¢ per dozen; geese, \$6.5¢7¢.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 16¢17¢; Young America, 17¢18¢; factory prices, 1¢1½¢ less.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 27¢30¢ per pound; extras, 30¢; dairy, 20¢22¢; store, 15¢18¢.
Eggs—25¢35¢ per dozen.
Hops—New crop, 23¢26¢ per pound.
Wool—Valley, 12¢15¢; Eastern Oregon, 8¢14¢; mohair, 26¢28¢.
Beef—Groves, cows, 33¢35¢ per pound; steers, 4¢; dressed, 6¢7¢.
Veal—7¢8¢.
Mutton—Groves, 3¢ per pound; dressed, 6¢.
Lamb—Groves, 3½¢ per pound; dressed, 6½¢.
Hogs—Groves, 6½¢6¾¢ per pound; dressed, 7½¢.

SNOW IN THE ROCKIES.

Fell Over Large Area and is Gladly Welcomed in Most Places.

Denver, Dec. 17.—The entire Rocky Mountain region from Northern Wyoming to Southern New Mexico has been visited by a storm during the past 36 hours. The ground in the plateau section is covered to a depth of six inches, while the fall in the mountains has been much heavier. The greater portion of the precipitation fell yesterday and last night. Today about two inches of snow fell during the morning in most sections of Colorado, but tonight the weather has cleared. No snow fell in Western Wyoming today, although around Cheyenne and in the region immediately north of there a light snowfall was experienced. In Southern New Mexico a light rainfall was reported, with snow in the north. In some parts of Colorado, particularly in the San Luis valley in the south, the snow was the heaviest for years.

For the past three years drought has visited the San Luis valley and the present moisture has brought rejoicing, assuring as it does good conditions for next year's crops. Railroad traffic is experiencing no serious interruption as a result of the storm, because of the fact that the snow drifted but little. For the same reason there is no fear for the safety of stock on the ranges, and no losses have been reported. The storm originated in Arizona, and the temperature at no time has been uncomfortably cold.

THE AIDED RAILROADS.

Only One Owes the Government, According to Commissioner Longstreet.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The annual report of General Longstreet, the commissioner of railroads, says that, of the railroad companies which have received government subsidies in bonds, all have settled their indebtedness with the government except the Central Branch railway company, the successor of the Central Branch Union Pacific railway company. The reports of the bonded and land grant roads show an increase of \$20,000,000 in net earnings over those for 1901. There was an increase of over \$5,000,000, in gross earnings and of \$27,000,000 in expenses. The report deals with detailed annual summaries of the operations of the roads, embraces the principal laws of congress that relate to the bonded and land grant roads, and includes abstracts of the decisions of the supreme court in cases affecting the bonded and Pacific companies, and to which the United States is party.

THREAT TO RENEW STRIKE.

Coxe Brothers' Miners Demand Reinstatement of Union Men.

New York, Dec. 17.—More than 4,000 miners at Drifton, near Hazleton, will go out on strike unless their employers adjust grievances they complain of, says a dispatch from Scranton to the Press. The shipment of coal to New York will be decreased 10,000 tons a day if this strike is declared. The dissatisfied miners are employed by Coxe Bros. & Co., the large independent operators. They say that the company has repeatedly refused to re-employ all its union miners.

District Presidents Duffy, Fahey and Nichols, who are in this city, have had a conference regarding the question. Duffy upholds the attitude of the Drifton miners, but the other district presidents, together with their attorney representing the miners, before the strike commission, are doing their utmost to prevent a suspension of work. They believe that the action of the Drifton miners in declaring a strike before they see whether the commissions intend to protect their rights in their decision will have a bad effect.

MORE SHOTS AT THE KING.

Leopold of Belgium Fired Upon as He Was Leaving the Royal Train.

New York, Dec. 17.—The American correspondent at Brussels says: As Leopold, the king of the Belgians, was leaving the royal train at the station, a crowd of two shots were fired at him, although neither took effect.

It is not known whether the shots were fired by an assassin or by poachers, but in view of the dissatisfaction with the king because of his cruel treatment of his daughter, the Princess Stephanie, the shooting is generally believed to have been a deliberate attempt to kill him, and much excitement prevails.

The guards that surround the king have been doubled.

Snow All Over Kansas.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 17.—The first heavy snowstorm of the winter prevailed all over Kansas today. The fall in some places amounted to four inches on the level. No severe cold accompanied the storm, and great good to the wheat crop in Central Kansas will result. Trains on all roads were delayed today, the snow in some places preventing traffic. There has been no relief of the fuel famine in Kiowa county.

Logs to Increase in Price.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 17.—Another increase in the price of logs is expected by Coast loggers within the next few days. At the present time the ruling price is from \$7.50 to \$8. It is thought this will be increased by at least 50 cents before the end of the week.

SHIPS WERE SUNK

BRITISH CANNON PUT FATAL HOLES THROUGH VENEZUELAN BOATS.

Towed Them to Sea from the Harbor of La Guayra and Returned Two Hours Later Without Them—Cannon Shots Were Distinctly Heard by Officers in Venezuelan Forts.

Caracas, Dec. 18.—The Governor of Margarita Island reports that British and German warships are off that island.

When the combined fleets seized the Venezuelan ships at La Guayra the German commander delivered to the Venezuelan captains the following document: "By order of my sovereign and at the command of the commander of the German squadron in West Indian waters, I, the commander of the Panther, request you to lower your ship's flag immediately and leave your ship with your crew and arms at once. This is not a measure of war on the part of Germany, but only with the object of making a provisional seizure of your ship in order to oblige the Venezuelan Government to recognize our just demands. In case you disobey and wish to defend your ship I shall be obliged to prevent you from so doing by the discharge of arms."

"ECKERMAN, Commander."

Further details of the sinking of the Venezuelan ships have been obtained from an entry made in the books of the signal men of the fortress at La Guayra. It is as follows: "Tuesday, December 9, 1:30 night. 'The Adutant' called me to see if I knew the steamer Retribution of the English Navy was towing the steamers Crespo and Totune, of the National Navy, three or four miles north. I had heard four cannon shots and saw the two steamers had disappeared and understood they had been sunk by the Vireta and Retribution. At the end of an hour the Retribution returned to the harbor alone."

The fact that the Retribution returned to La Guayra alone two hours after leaving with the captured vessels was confirmed by English residents of La Guayra. Consequently she did not have time to conduct the Venezuelan ships to Curacao or Trinidad.

Germany Accepts America's Protest.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—Secretary Hay's note excepting American ships from certain restrictions of the Venezuelan blockade was favorably received by the German Government. The Foreign Office treats the matter as not raising any essential difficulty as being without precedent, since Germany made a similar reservation in the Cretan blockade. The precise status of American vessels under the blockade will be defined in an official notification.

Minister Bowen's communication to Germany through the United States Government in behalf of President Castro, received here yesterday, was a simple proposal to arbitrate the question in dispute, and was not accompanied by any conditions.

England Will Go After Castro.

London, Dec. 18.—Replying to a question in the House of Lords today, Lord Lansdowne, the Foreign Secretary, said that if the seizure of Venezuelan gunboats did not produce the desired effect, further coercive measures would be employed. The matter had been considered in consultation with Germany, and it had been decided to resort to a blockade of the ports. It was not intended to land a British force, and still less to occupy Venezuelan territory.

New York, Dec. 18.—Secretary Hay has cabled to Ambassador Tower, at Berlin, says the World's correspondent at Washington, to ask the German government to define for this country exactly what is meant by a "peaceful blockade."

Although it has not been put into public expression, this government contends that there is no such thing as a "peaceful blockade." If a state of war does not exist this government will contend, at the proper time, that United States ships must be allowed to pass.

The test will come when the Red D Line steamer Caracas arrives at La Guayra, probably next Saturday. If that ship goes through, as it is expected it will, other ships from other nations will also demand to go through, and the "peaceful blockade" will become a farce.

If Germany insists on its right to blockade peacefully and refuse to let American ships through, then Admiral Dewey's fleet will be sent to Venezuela to convoy the American ships through the German and English lines. Admiral Dewey has been told to keep his fleet together. The reason this government makes this demand of Germany is because it has in writing in black and white, the fullest statement of Germany's intentions in Venezuela. It has no such statement from England. The diplomats of that country were shrewd enough to make only a verbal statement of intent.

The Administration is waiting Germany's answer with some anxiety. The situation is now more critical than it has been since the trouble began.

Italians Gladly Join in Blockade.

London, Dec. 18.—News has been received in London that all the employees of the La Guayra-Caracas and Puerto Cabello-Venezuela Railroads are safe. Telegrams received here from Berlin confirm the statement that it has been arranged for Italy to join the blockade, and say that the German Government will ask the consent of the Bundesrath to a proposal to make the Venezuelan blockade more stringent.

MRS. GRANT DEAD.

Widow of Warrior President Succumbs to Heart Failure.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant died at her residence in this city at 11:17 o'clock Sunday night. Death was due to heart failure. Mrs. Grant having suffered for years from valvular disease of the heart, which was aggravated by a severe attack of bronchitis. Her age prevented her rallying from the attacks. Her daughter, Nellie Grant Sartoris, was the only one of her children with her at the time of her death, her three sons, who had been summoned here, all being out of the city. There also were present at the bedside when the end came Miss Rosemary Sartoris, a grand daughter, Dr. Bishop, one of the attending physicians, and two trained nurses. Death came peacefully, the sufferer retaining consciousness practically to the end. Julia Dent Grant was born January 26, 1826. She was married to U. S. Grant August 22, 1848.

Four children were born to her—three sons, Frederick Dent, Ulysses, Jr., and Jesse, and one daughter, Nellie.

The remains of Mrs. Grant will be deposited in the tomb at Riverside park, New York, where those of her husband now repose. Whether they will be taken there immediately or this ceremony postponed for a time could not be ascertained tonight.

GREAT FIRE IN OHIO TOWN.

Sheet Steel Company's Mills Burned at a Loss of \$1,000,000.

Canal Dover, O., Dec. 16.—The corrugating mills, the paint shop, the store room and the building containing the four mills on the west side of the American sheet steel company's mills, were burned to the ground here last night, and the company is confronted with a loss of over \$1,000,000, nearly \$750,000 is finished product and the remainder in buildings and machinery.

A strong wind was blowing over the burning pile toward the offices and the machine shop. Fear that these, too, might be doomed caused a call for help to be sent to New Philadelphia. The fire engines from that city rendered good service. The offices, machine shops, galvanizing department and the mills on the east side are all that remain of this great plant.

The loss is partially covered by insurance. A dozen railway cars standing at tracks were consumed.

REORGANIZE CONSULAR FORCE.

Bill to Classify and Provide for Examination of Applicants.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A bill has been introduced in the house by Representative Adams, of Pennsylvania, to provide for the reorganization of the consular service of the United States. Provision is made for the classification of consuls general and consuls, specifying the number and salary of each class, and for the examination of applicants and those now in the service. Of the latter, those who fail to pass are to be dropped, but none can be called for examination within six months of the day of the passage of the bill. Consuls general and consuls may be transferred by the president from one place to another of the same class. Special examinations are provided for consuls who may be sent where the United States exercises extra territorial jurisdiction.

Naval Training Station on Lakes.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Secretary Moody has transmitted to congress the report of the naval board, headed by Admiral Taylor, which was created to select a site for a naval training station on the great lakes. The report recommends that the station be located on Lake Michigan, below an altitude 43.30, and asks for an appropriation of \$250,000 to buy the land and develop the station, leaving the exact location to be determined later by the board. Secretary Moody approved the report and points out that an immediate appropriation will prevent the raising of land values.

Union Men May Picket.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 16.—Judge Carter, in the supreme court today, issued an order restraining 20 union men by name from gathering at the plant of the Drop Forge company, where a strike has been on for several months, for the purpose of intimidating men who wanted to go to work. The court refused to interfere with the peaceful picket, which he held to be legal. The order is a modification of a former decision, which restrained the entire union from gathering at the plants.

Fatal Wreck in Missouri.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 16.—A special to the Star from Bucklin, Mo., says a serious wreck occurred on the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad tonight at 9 o'clock. A local freight was wrecked four miles west of Bucklin. A steam wrecker was sent from Bloomfield. The wrecker and engine went through the bridge at Yellow creek. Five men were killed and one other fatally injured and half a dozen others seriously hurt. All are railroad employees.

Contract for Rapid-Fire Guns.

Washington, Dec. 16.—General Crozier, chief of ordnance, has awarded a contract for the manufacture of 30 15-pound rapid fire guns and mounts to the Bethlehem steel works at its bid of \$3,930 for guns and mounts. The only other bid received was from the American & British ordnance company at a slightly higher figure.

POWERS WARNED

AMERICAN VESSELS MUST NOT BE INTERFERED WITH.

Secretary of State Hay Denies That Peace Blockade Has Ever Been Recognized—Is Following Precedent Established in 1898—Must Declare War on Venezuela to Stop All Shipping.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Minister Bowen has confirmed the press reports to the effect that the guns of the allied forces which bombarded Puerto Cabello were directed entirely at the fortifications and not at the town. Regrettable as it was, this statement relieves the affair of the first suspicion that it constituted a violation of international law, in the fact that 24 hours notice was not served of the bombardment. The requirements as to the notice applies to unfortified or fortified towns where the fire must be directed upon the inhabitants, and this was not the case at Puerto Cabello, so that, while the officials here regret that the firing took place, they have as yet no cause to protest.

But it is now probable that the United States will break its attitude of inactivity in the event that an attempt is made to enforce the "peaceful blockade" toward an American ship. While the allies were considering the ways and means of bringing Venezuela to terms and a blockade of this character had been decided upon, the German government informed the United States that when the blockade was established it would turn back all shipping, though no effort would be made to seize the ships. The United States government made no response to this statement at the time (last year) not feeling called upon to do so, before presentation of an actual case. But now that the blockade is sought to be established, Secretary Hay has informed the German government that American ships should not be interfered with in their trading, except the inhibition applies to all shipping, and further, the note intimates a disapproval of stoppage at all.

In so doing the state department is following a precedent, for, during the effort of the powers to establish a "peaceful blockade" off Crete in 1898, Secretary Sherman formally refused a refusal to be bound by it. It happened that no American ship had occasion to enter a Cretan port during the brief period of time the blockade was in force, so the issue was not made then, but in the present case, with regular lines of American steamers entering Venezuelan ports at short intervals, a test case may soon follow. It is within the legal rights of the allies to close these ports, but probably this can be accomplished without a protest on our part only after a formal declaration of war. The hope is growing here that such a declaration can after all be averted, owing to the energy with which Mr. Bowen has acted.

The proposal of President Castro to the allied powers for a peaceful settlement was suggested by Mr. Bowen, and it came to the State Department through his hands. It has been forwarded to London and Berlin through the embassies here, and as both Great Britain and Germany have heretofore professed a desire to settle the issues peacefully, it is hoped that they will avail themselves of this opportunity. The proposal did not mention the methods of arbitration nor the limitations, and the point of doubt which may prevent the acceptance of the scheme is believed to be Castro's unwillingness to bind himself in advance to the recognition of the principal liability; he would leave the arbitrators to determine whether or not he is liable