

ESTRADA ROUTS ZELAYA'S ARMY

Modern Machine Guns and Equipment Works Great Havoc

National Troops Flee and City of Recreo Is Captured—March on Capital Expected Next—Victory Is Gratifying to U. S. Government—American On Firing Line.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 23.—The revolutionists under General Estrada have completely routed the Zelayan forces near Rama. Estrada has captured Recreo, Vasquez' strongest position, and has been victorious all along the line, which stretches for eight miles.

Yesterday the forward movement began, detachments being sent out under Generals Uis Mena, Fornos Diaz, Alfredo Diaz, Chamorro and Matutuy.

It was General Menas' task to outflank Gonzales, who directed the defense of the great body of the government troops. These were in large numbers and well entrenched, but Estrada's followers were armed with the latest equipment and machine guns were brought into play to clear the trenches. Casualties on the government side were high, the greatest execution being done at Recreo, which the revolutionists finally took by assault.

Among those in the revolutionary army were Captain Godfrey Fowler, formerly of the Thirty-third infantry, U. S. A., who was in command on the firing line.

Tatumbia was captured this afternoon by General Mena after a bloody fight. Tatumbia was one of the strongest positions of the government forces, but the revolutionists were in greater numbers and had effective artillery.

General Zelleidon arrived this morning from Monkey Point with 300 men and one Hotchkiss. He left this afternoon for Rama. The steamer Ustein arrived this afternoon with four Maxims and 1,000 rifles.

The fighting still continues at the upper end of the Zelayan trenches, but it is only a matter of time before the revolutionists will take the remaining strongholds. Several hundred prisoners are said to have been captured by General Estrada.

Word has reached here that Zelaya has determined to retain the position of commander-in-chief of the army.

CHRISTMAS GIFT COST \$750,000.

George D. Widener Presents Wife With Pearl Collection.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 23.—Probably the most splendid and costly Christmas gift that any woman in the world will receive this year will be a rare and magnificent pearl collection, valued at \$750,000, which George D. Widener will present to his wife, who is Miss Eleanor Elkins, daughter of the late William Elkins, traction magnate.

It is said to be the most costly string of pearls in the world, and at a recent sale in New York brought the highest price received for pearl necklaces.

It is said Widener intended the rope of gems, some of which are nearly as large as pigeon eggs, and sufficient for a king's ransom, as a surprise for his wife, but the news of his intended gift has leaked out.

It is probable that society will soon have an opportunity to admire at first hand what is said to be the finest collection of pearls, gem for gem, that any woman has been privileged to wear.

Lad Kidnaped, Is Belief.

Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 23.—E. J. Card, of this city, told a story to the police today which it is believed throws light upon the disappearance of Carlos Wright, 16 years old, from his home here a week ago, under circumstances indicating kidnaping. Card says that on the night of Wright's disappearance a wagon containing three men drove rapidly past his house. There was a fourth figure in the vehicle, lying prone and struggling. Several times this person was struck by the men. This was near a cemetery in which Wright's clothing was found.

Rich Women Help Girls.

New York, Dec. 23.—Exclusive Fifth avenue received a demonstration of woman's determination this afternoon when 15 automobiles furnished by prominent society women, but containing two seamy poorly-dressed working women, passed up the thoroughfare in the double interest of the striking shirtwaist operators and woman suffrage. The cars were furnished by Miss Anne Morgan, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Samuel Untermyer and other prominent women who have identified themselves with the strikers.

Munitions Sent to Nicaragua.

New Orleans, Dec. 23.—For use by the revolutionists in Nicaragua 300,000 rounds of ammunition were shipped from New Orleans late today on the steamer John Wilson. Indicating no effort at concealment, the shipment was shown in the manifest of the vessel's cargo. The Wilson cleared direct for Bluefields. Consul-General Sussman, representing the Estrada government at New Orleans, declared tonight that the shipment of the ammunition was an evidence of Estrada's good faith.

Nicaragua Is in Default.

New York, Dec. 23.—The second payment of \$50,000 from the Nicaraguan government, on the claim of \$600,000 due the George D. Emery company, has not been paid in accordance with the agreement signed at Washington a few months ago. It was due last Saturday, and the New York bankers, through whom Nicaragua arranged for payment, received no funds for that purpose. The agreement made by the Zelayan government will, however, be binding on its successor.

AIRSHIP APPEARS AT NIGHT.

Mysterious Craft, Carrying Powerful Searchlight, Is Seen.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 24.—Flying at 30 to 40 miles an hour, a mysterious airship tonight appeared over Worcester, hovered over the city a few minutes, disappeared for about two hours, and then returned to cut four circles about the city, using a searchlight of tremendous power. Thousands of persons thronged the streets to watch the mysterious visitor.

The airship remained over the city for 15 minutes, all the time at a height that most observers set at about 2000 feet, too great to enable even its precise shape to be seen. The glaring rays of its great searchlight, however, were sharply defined. The dark mass of the ship could be seen dimly.

At the time of the airship visit, Wallace E. Tillinghast, a Worcester man, who recently asserted he had invented a marvelous aeroplane, in which he said he had journeyed to New York and returned by way of Boston, was absent from his home and could not be found.

The visitor from the clouds was first sighted over Marlborough at 5:29 o'clock. The 16 miles between this city and Marlborough were covered in 30 minutes.

Two hours later an eager shout from the waiting crowds announced its return. Slowly its light swept the heavens. It circled four times above the city and then disappeared, finally heading first to the south and then to the east.

Marlboro Sights Airship.

Marlboro, Mass., Dec. 24.—An airship was sighted over Marlboro early tonight, going northwest at 60 or more miles an hour. Persons in all sections of the city reported having seen it. Its general course, they say, was in the direction of Clinton.

SIGHTS ABANDONED WRECK.

Japanese Steamer Reports Disaster Off Cape Flattery.

Seattle, Dec. 24.—Another probable marine disaster off the coast of Washington was reported today, when the Japanese steamer Kaga Maru reported to the wireless station at Cape Beal that the American schooner Susie M. Plummer was in distress and had been abandoned 100 miles west and south of Cape Flattery.

No news regarding the extent of the schooner's trouble or the fate of the crew was contained in the brief message from the Japanese vessel, which is on her way to the Orient.

The United States lifesaving tug Snohomish left her station at Neah Bay at 4 o'clock this afternoon to go to the aid of the schooner's crew.

The Susie M. Plummer, a vessel of 920 tons, gross, sailed from Everett, Wash., December 5, with a cargo of lumber for San Pedro, Cal. She is owned by W. G. Tibbitts, of San Francisco, and was built in 1890 at Thomaston, Me. She was commanded by Captain Hansen and carried a small crew.

EXPORTS DROP ONE MILLION.

French Tariff Seriously Affects American Oil Products.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Alarmed by a drop from \$1,000,000 to \$26,363 in mineral oil exports to France in a month, American oil exporters have begun a movement to induce congress to renew with the French government the reciprocity treaty that expired on October 31. Exporters also hope for the renewal of the treaty with Spain, a large importer of American oil, which will expire on August 31, 1910.

Exports to Canada under the operation of the new tariff law have not been compiled by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor, but indications are that they will show relatively as great a falling off in oil exports as those to France.

Notwithstanding the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty with France, reports to the bureau for November, the first month under the new order of things, show larger totals in both imports and exports than in the corresponding month of last year. Raw cotton, which is imported into France free of duty, and hence is not affected by the tariff changes, is largely responsible for the increase in exports, while art works 20 years old and over, admitted free under the new law, and diamonds and hides were responsible for the increased imports.

The falling off in imports of champagne from France, due to the increased tariff, was most marked, declining from \$384,674 in November, 1908, to \$58,062 in November, 1909.

Miners Drive Out Switchmen.

Butte, Mont., Dec. 24.—A committee representing the Butte miners' union today drove switchmen who had returned to work in Butte yards of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads from their work and told them that if they returned 2000 miners would wait upon them tomorrow and see that they stopped work while their brother switchmen were on strike. Every switchman on the two roads quit, and tonight switching operations in Butte are completely tied up. All the Boston & Montana mines and the Colusa mine closed today.

English Steamer Missing.

London, Dec. 24.—Gales in Great Britain have done much damage to shipping. The railway company's steamer Rostrevor, which left Greenore, a headland of Ireland, at 11 o'clock Tuesday night, and which was due at Holyhead, Wales, 75 miles across St. George's channel, at 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, had not been reported, and it is feared she has foundered. She carried a crew of 24 and a few passengers.

Zelaya's Loss Is Immense.

Panama, Dec. 24.—A wireless dispatch from Bluefields, addressed to General Chamorro's father here, reports 600 men killed and 1800 prisoners and 1,000,000 cartridges captured by the provisional government forces at Rama.

A BRIEF DAILY REPORT ON THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Tuesday, December 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Representatives Hamer, Mondell and Martin today held a conference and agreed to unite in pressing for consideration the bill relieving homesteaders in the northwest from the necessity of residing on their lands through the winter.

Reports indicate that the weather is unusually severe and many requests for this relief are being received.

It is asserted that new settlers are finding it impossible to remain on their lands.

The senate today confirmed the nomination of Robert Bacon of New York to be ambassador to France.

President Taft sent to the senate the nominations of General George Stone of California to be naval officer of customs at San Francisco, and Howard C. Shober of South Dakota to be auditor for the interior department in this city.

The Mann "white slave traffic" bill was favorably reported to the house today by Chairman Mann of that committee. The report accompanying the presentation of the measure distinctly disclaims any purpose to usurp in any way the police powers of the states.

Recommendations for changes in the present law regulating transportation companies are contained in the twenty-third annual report of the interstate commerce commission transmitted today to congress.

The report, however, is notable rather for recommendations it does not contain.

Five of the suggestions made by the special committee selected by President Taft to draft changes in the existing interstate commerce act are offered in the report.

Congress adjourned early this afternoon to Thursday, January 4.

Monday, December 20.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Both senate and house concluded their labors by 2 o'clock today. Tomorrow a holiday adjournment for two weeks will be taken.

Aside from the confirmation of the nomination of Horace H. Lorton, of Tennessee, to be an associate justice of the supreme court, the principal feature of the senate proceedings was a speech laden with optimism and good cheer for the Christmas season by Senator DeJew. The address of the New Yorker was called forth by what he characterized as the pessimistic predictions in Senator La Follette's magazine and in many newspapers as to the effect of the tariff upon prices and as to the waste of natural resources.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"We will report a general river and harbor bill about February 1," said Chairman Alexander, of the house committee on rivers and harbors, today. Mr. Alexander said his bill would carry much more than \$30,000,000.

Think Frauds Reach Pacific.

New York, Dec. 25.—Collector of the Port Loeb has declared the arrests here in the "sleeper trunk" smuggling cases were but the beginning of a series of arrests that would extend to the Pacific Ocean. "It has been discovered that the importation of costly goods through this port without payment of duty," Mr. Loeb said, "was the result of a far-reaching plot, the head of which was a former United States customs official, who made his headquarters in Paris, and who has since died." Several dressmakers have been arrested here.

Labor Leaders Confer With Nagel.

Washington, Dec. 24.—A committee representing the American Federation of Labor called upon Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel and urged upon him the advisability of his department making a thorough investigation into the various phases of industrial education.

The committee, which was appointed for the purpose by the recent Toronto convention of the federation, consisted of President Samuel Gompers, James O'Connell, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison.

Senate Confirms Many Diplomats.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The senate confirmed the nomination of Robert Bacon, of New York, as ambassador to France, as submitted by President Taft. Twenty-six other diplomatic nominations, including those of Richard C. Kerens, of Missouri, ambassador to Austria-Hungary; Henry Lane Wilson, of Washington, ambassador to Mexico; William James Calhoun, of Illinois, minister to China; and Henry T. Gage, of California, minister to Portugal, were also confirmed by the senate.

Postmasters Will Get More.

Washington, Dec. 22.—On January 1 the following fourth-class postoffices will be advanced to the presidential grade, and the salaries of the postmasters fixed as indicated: Oregon: Hermiton, \$1,100; Sherwood, \$1,100; Wallowa, \$1,200. Washington: Almirra and Woodland, \$1,000; Granite Falls, Kettle Falls and Oroville, \$1,100. Idaho: Gooding, \$700; Jerome, \$1,600; Burley, \$1,300; Rigby, \$1,200; Cambridge, Cottonwood, Meridian, \$1,100.

Appeal's Advance Is Asked.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Application is to be made to the Supreme court early in January by the department of justice to advance for hearing the appeal of the government from the decision of Judge Holt at New York, practically exempting from prosecution certain officials of the sugar trust because their acts are barred by the statutes of limitations.

Assistant Weigher Indicted.

New York, Dec. 25.—Another Federal grand jury indictment in connection with the sugar underweighing frauds was found today against Thomas Doyle, assistant superintendent of the Arbuckle Sugar Refinery in Brooklyn.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN ACTIVE.

Prophecies of Lazy Session Not Fulfilled By House.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Far better progress is being made with legislation in the house than was anticipated. Before congress convened, little or no activity prior to the holiday adjournment was expected and that the disposition to do but a small amount of business would probably characterize the entire session was asserted openly.

Since the house convened, December 6, many very important bills and resolutions have been introduced; two important measures have passed, while others have been reported and many are under consideration in the house.

In all a total of 1,606 house bills, 188 house resolutions, 95 house joint resolutions and 26 concurrent resolutions have been introduced. Two measures for railroad regulation bearing the name of Representative Esch, of Wisconsin, have passed the house.

Two omnibus pension bills, carrying a total of 467 claims, also have passed.

Two important pieces of legislation are now pending, the District of Columbia appropriation bill and the Panama government reorganization measure. The arly appropriation, carrying upwards of one hundred million dollars is out of the military committee, while the immigration committee is preparing to report its bill regulating the white slave traffic.

FOOD LAW MORE DRASTIC

Department to Add Laboratories for Stricter Enforcement

Washington, Dec. 21.—A comprehensive enlargement of the activities of the department of agriculture in administering the pure food act is contemplated in orders issued today. The object is to inaugurate for ports where the department has no chemical laboratory a systematic inspection of foods, as is done at ports where such facilities exist.

A complete chain of laboratory districts has been established, with headquarters at the principal ports, to which will be sent samples of imported goods when found necessary. All imports, regarding the right to enter which under the pure food law any doubt may exist in the minds of the customs inspectors at the smaller ports will be referred to these chemists.

Officials say that the method will tend to do away with any tendency to import goods in violation of law at the smaller ports, where there are no laboratories, instead of at the larger ports, although their ultimate destination is the same. Headquarters are to be located, among other places, at Galveston, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle.

Harmony Between Mexico and U. S.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Temporarily, at least, the relations between Mexico and the United States growing out of the former's friendly offer of her friendly offices in the affairs with Nicaragua have been forced to the front. Whatever the purpose of Mexico may have been at the beginning, however, she may have desired to rescue Zelaya, give him a safe conduct and assist the United States in restoring peace, it is quite evident from a statement issued this afternoon by Senator Creel, special envoy of President Diaz, that Mexico is prepared now to give at least a passive acquiescence to all of the plans of the administration with regard to Zelaya and his fallen government.

M'Veagh Favors Postoffice.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The secretary of the treasury has reported favorably upon Bourne's bill for a new postoffice building in Portland. The report recites that an adequate postoffice building will require an expenditure of \$1,500,000. The report has gone to the senate public buildings committee and Bourne will try to secure an early report from the committee, and the passage of his bill through the senate, making it eligible for inclusion in the omnibus public building bill, if one is passed this session.

Oregon's Claim Is Pressed.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Oregon's claim against the Federal government on account of its expenditures incurred in raising and equipping troops during the Civil war, amounting to \$193,000, will be pressed before the house next month. Representative Hawley today discussed this claim with Chairman Tawney, of the appropriations committee, showing him a finding of the court of claims in which this claim is certified as correct and worthy of payment.

Loeb Waits for Automatics.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Collector William Loeb, Jr., of New York, said here today he was looking for the arrival of the first automatic scales which it is proposed to place on the docks in New York for sugar weighing purposes. If found satisfactory 20 of the scales will be installed.

Bootleggers Stand Convicted.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The United States supreme court yesterday reversed the decision of the circuit court of Washington in the cases of Harvey Sutton and Robert Miller, charged with taking liquor to the Yakima Indian reservation. The contention of the government was upheld.

COPENHAGEN TURNS DOWN COOK

Investigating Committee Can Find No Proof of His Claims.

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—The committee which has been investigating the data of Dr. Frederick A. Cook today officially reported to the consistory of the University of Copenhagen that Dr. Cook's records and observations were wholly insufficient to warrant a verdict that he discovered the North Pole.

The consistory of the university adopted the report of the committee, thereby flatly rejecting Dr. Cook's claims and throwing out his records and observations.

Cook's data, according to the report, is no more convincing than was the newspaper account.

Dr. Cook's private secretary, Lonsdale, who represented the explorer here, is bitterly disappointed at the verdict. He is making an effort to induce the consistory to withhold final judgment until the whole of Dr. Cook's data can be presented.

Lonsdale told the committee that missing data, which are part of Dr. Cook's original documents, were sent here from America by a route different from that by which the records already examined were brought. He said this additional data would arrive in a few days.

The consistory refuses to pay any attention to Lonsdale's appeal and the findings announced today are final so far as the consistory is concerned.

The discrediting of Dr. Cook was a severe blow to the Danish scientists, who had stood firmly by him and given him support under the charges made by Commander Peary. The great reception given Dr. Cook upon his arrival here and the honors that were paid him by high and low, including the king, are recalled with somewhat openly displayed chagrin.

It is known that the Danish experts were personally inclined to favor Dr. Cook, most of them already having come out in statements tending to substantiate his claims.

A member of the committee today said: "It took the committee but a few minutes to see that Dr. Cook's observations and so-called records were worthless."

"We could have reported immediately, but it took several days to recover from the surprise."

"The so-called notebooks on which Dr. Cook relied in a great measure for vindication had only accounts of his observations, rather than the observations themselves. These notebooks were thrown aside without a moment's consideration."

"I cannot understand how a man of Cook's reputed scientific attainments could have attempted to bolster up his claims with such flimsy evidence."

ZELAYA'S RULE ENDS.

Madriz Assumes Presidency of Nicaraguan Republic.

Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 22.—Jose Madriz today assumed the presidency of Nicaragua, succeeding former President Zelaya, who resigned.

Madriz's recent threats to break with Zelaya, coupled with his subsequent announcement that his presidential candidacy was supported by the Mexican government, which had sent Senator Creel to Washington to intercede in his behalf, is construed by his supporters to mean that he will be president in fact as well as in name, and that he intends to give the country a new deal.

Americans here, however, are not inclined to accept this opinion. They believe the new president is pretending to want peace, in order to preclude the possibility of intervention on the part of the United States.

Madriz has promised the revolutionists immunity if they will surrender. He has intimated that he will place Provisional President Estrada in a high office.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 22.—Reports from Rama today say Estrada's army is advancing against General Vasquez, just outside Rama, and that a battle is expected immediately. This is the first decisive move on the part of the revolutionists against the election of Madriz as successor of Zelaya as president. The formal protest against the election of Madriz will be based upon the fact that the Atlantic coast departments were not represented in the congress that elected Madriz.

Under Estrada, in the impending battle, will be Generals Luis Diaz, Manafeen, Matutuy, Pacheco and Chamorro.

It is reported today that the gunboat Blanca has sailed up the Mico river.

Mark Twain Past Joking.

New York, Dec. 22.—Without the customary jest on his lips and complaining of ill health, Mark Twain has returned from Bermuda, looking ill and admitting it. To the reporters who greeted him as he stepped down the gangplank of the steamship Bermuda, the humorist declared he would do no more active work. Half a dozen unfinished books will probably never receive attention. His autobiography, of which 100,000 words out of the contemplated 500,000 have been written, will be his sole consideration.

London Says "I Told You So."

London, Dec. 22.—This city has all along doubted the claims of Dr. Cook. The newspapers here are issuing extras telling of the failure of the explorer to substantiate his claim to having reached the Pole. About two weeks ago a local newspaper published what it purported to be a story of the insufficiency of the Cook observations and within the past two days all England had grown more and more skeptical.

Tongs Battle in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Trouble between the warring tongs of Chinatown broke out anew yesterday, and as a result of a revolver battle in which 30 or more shots were fired, Sing Moy is at St. Luke's hospital with a bullet wound in his right leg, and 10 other Mongolians are in cells at the Harrison-street station.

FULL INQUIRY FOR BALLINGER

Taft Grants Demand of Secretary for Complete Investigation

Assailed Official Gives Ultimatum to President—Party Leaders Give Consent—No Secrecy Need Be Feared—Joint Committee Will Be Appointed After Holidays.

Washington, Dec. 21.—President Taft today yielded to the demands of both Secretary Ballinger and his critics for a public investigation of the whole subject matter underlying the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

Mr. Ballinger this afternoon served upon the president virtually an ultimatum to the effect that such an investigation was indeed the price of his remaining in the cabinet. He made it clear that he was no longer willing to sit silent and wait for the thing "to blow over."

Mr. Taft, it is said, reluctantly admitted the disappointment of his hope that the country at large would accept as final his own vindication of Mr. Ballinger in his dismissal of charges brought against the secretary of the interior by L. R. Glavis, ex-special agent of the land office, and his conclusion that the investigation demanded by both sides was inevitable.

Mr. Ballinger's attitude has the support of the leading Republicans in congress—senators and representatives—who feel that, entirely apart from the merits of the controversy itself, a festering sore of this character must poison the whole system of the party in power, and that it is high time to resort to the lance.

These leaders, determined that a cleansing of this wound is necessary, have not hesitated to go to the White House and impress their views upon Mr. Taft. Conferences of a confidential character, in which members of the cabinet, party leaders in both houses of congress and the president himself have participated, have been held in the last few days. They culminated today, when Mr. Ballinger, Attorney General Wickersham and Postmaster General Hitchcock met in Mr. Wickersham's office and proceeded thence to the White House, where the matter was laid before the president.

The president was given to understand that Mr. Ballinger's demand carried with it the indorsement of both Mr. Wickersham and Mr. Hitchcock. It is known tonight that he has the sympathy also of other members of the cabinet.

Mr. Ballinger told the president, it is said, that the situation had become intolerable to him, and that, though the constant charges against him had come from irresponsible persons, he would no longer sit supinely by, and, in justice to himself, he felt compelled to insist upon an investigation.

STATISTICS IN GRAIN YIELD.

Oregon, Washington and Idaho Have Wheat Crops of Enormous Size.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The department of agriculture today made public its statistics of the winter and spring wheat crop of various states for the past year. This report shows that 11,235,000 bushels of winter wheat were produced in Oregon, an average of 21 bushels to the acre. The total farm value of the crop of December 1 was \$10,449,000, or 93 cents per bushel. The spring wheat crop of Oregon is given at 5,142,000 bushels, or 18.7 bushels to the acre. Its value December 1 was \$4,782,000, or 93 cents per bushel.

The winter wheat crop of Washington was reported as 20,124,000 bushels, worth \$18,715,000. This is a production of 25.8 bushels per acre, valued at 93 cents per bushel. Washington's spring wheat crop is 15,656,000 bushels, valued at \$14,560,000, being 20.6 bushels per acre, and the same value as winter wheat.

The Idaho winter wheat crop was 9,135,000 bushels, valued at \$7,947,000. The yield was 29 bushels per acre, and the value as below that of other states, being only 85 cents per bushel. Spring wheat in Idaho was reported at 5,330,000 bushels, which, at 87 cents per bushel, represents a farm value of \$4,637,000. The yield per acre is 26 bushels.

Big Strike Is Delayed.

New York, Dec. 21.—Although it had been expected demands for increases in pay would be filed by representatives of 75,000 trainmen with the chief officials of eastern railroads today, no notice of such demands had been served on the companies by the brotherhoods in question. In well-informed railroad quarters it was learned there had been found no reason to expect the presentation of the demands before the middle of the week.

Wreck of Maine Guarded.

Havana, Dec. 24.—Port Captain Aguirre said tonight that the report that the anchor chain of the old battleship Maine was included in the cargo of scrap iron in the hold of the Cairnloch, which arrived a few days ago at Philadelphia, was absurd. The wreck of the Maine, Captain Aguirre said, was carefully guarded to prevent depredations by relic seekers.

Wrights Voted Medals.

Paris, Dec. 21.—The Academy of Science announced today that gold medals for aeronautic achievements would be awarded to Wilbur and Orville Wright, Bleriot, Farman, Count de Lambert, Latham, Santos Dumont, De la Vaulx, Voisin and Count Zeppelin.