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LORD OF THE DESERT

By PAUL de LANEY.

CHAPTER XVII.

The Trapper's Story.

"Tell us, Mr. Hammersley, about yourself," said Bertha, the night of the trapper's return after supper was over and the evening was before them. "Father," she continued, "has told me very much about you, but he only knows your late life. We are under so many obligations to you that I—we feel interested in your early history, your childhood, your birthplace, your father and mother, your brothers and sisters—everything about you, Mr. Hammersley!"

"You ask something that I know but little about, myself," replied the trapper. "I have been on these plains so long that the past all seems like a dream. In fact, it is so much like a dream that I sometimes get it confounded with my dreams and scarcely know which is real and which a dream.

"I was born in New York City. At least, when I first recollect, we were living in Boston, and my mother told me that I was born in New York, and that we had lived in Chicago. My step-father was a big coarse fellow, a ship-carpenter, and as soon as I was large enough to be in the way he was very cruel to me. It seems that he and my mother were married when I was only two years old, and that my father had died when I was only one year old. I do not even know his name. It is unfortunate, too, but I was so young and knew not the importance of having my own name, so I took the name of my step-father, though I bear the given name of my father. This much I learned, but I do not remember how I learned it.

"Anyway, my mother died when I was still a mere child and then I was sent to a sort of orphanage or place for the poor, and as soon as I got old enough to leave the place I did so, and drifted into the streets—was a common street arab for several years—sold papers, shined shoes and did such things as that class of boys do until I was fifteen years old. In the meantime I had been reading cheap novels—I had picked up a smattering education at the orphanage, and kept up reading. My soul was fired to go west and kill Indians, and be a hunter and trapper and do such other things that a frontier life might lead to.

"Well, one day I met Leonidas Liggett, an Englishman, who said he had known my mother and father and took a great interest in me on that account. He said that he was going to join an immigrant train to cross the plains and asked me if I did not want to come. It was the thing I most desired, and I had no preparations to make, as I had all that I possessed in the world on my back.

"We joined the immigrant train early in the spring and I worked my way by driving stock, helping about camp and doing whatever fell to my lot. We had many adventures, were attacked by the Indians, some of the immigrants took sick and died, and the teams gave out, provisions run short, in fact, we had the usual mishaps of a trip across this long stretch of uninhabited country.

"When we reached the Boise City military post my friend Liggett met Martin Lyle and after a few minutes conversation he got employment with him and came on to the desert. They seemed to know each other, or something of each other, and after they met they were never separated before they left for the plains. Liggett came and bade me good bye and said he was sorry he could not get me employment, too, but I did not care to come to the desert then, did not want to work on a ranch, and remained with the immigrant train under the protection of the military post.

"An old trapper by the name of Mike Hope came into Boise one day with a fine load of furs. He was dressed in furs and was scarred and rugged, and told of his adventures on the desert. I followed him about the post every day to hear him relate his adventures and when he had finally sold his furs at a good price and bought his supplies, among them being a number of large bear traps, I ventured to approach him and request that he take me along. He sized me up and after learning from some of the immigrants with whom I had crossed the plains that I was what he considered a true blue, he consented.

"We left and came to this very place, and while he had prepared a great deal of the improvements here I assisted him in making more. But he had found the secret chamber, and it was always guarded as such and kept prepared as a refuge in case we were ever attacked by the Indians, though he always treated them right and often made them presents. On account of this course we were never attacked by them, though we often met them when they were on the war path.

"The second summer after I came poor old Mike left me in charge of the place and traps and he made another trip to Boise. That is the last I ever saw of him. He got into a game of cards and then a fight and he was killed along with several others in the fight. When I finally became alarmed I made the trip to Boise and learned the facts of his death. I also learned that he did his part in the fight.

"Left in this manner there was but one thing for me to do. I had learned the trapping business and liked it. There was money in it, and I returned and took charge of the place as my own. In a short time after my return I found your father under the circumstances doubtless that he has already explained to you and since that time I have had no occasion to get lonesome or give up the plains, as I have made his cause my cause and long to see him revenged against the terrible deed of his brother and his companion, Dan Follett."

"But did you ever meet your friend Liggett, again," inquired Bertha.

"No, not to talk with him. I only saw him once, but I do not think he recognized me. I stopped at the Stone House once for water and saw him there. I do not think he would know me now," said the trapper.

"But you say he seemed to know my uncle?" replied Bertha.

"No, I did not mean that," said the trapper. "They appeared to know something in common, or to understand one another in some way. But that is also like a dream and I may have been mistaken."

After a few moments of silence the trapper continued: "So that is my whole story, so far as I know it, and there is nothing out of the ordinary about it. The novels I used to read led me to believe that there was romance about everything in the west but it is all alike to me. The daily attention to the traps, the curing of furs, the passing band of Indians, all—except the unfortunate events connected with yourself and your father are common-place to me."

Before the conversation was renewed there was a pounding on the outer door of the structure, for it was getting on toward midnight and the door had been closed.

The trapper rose and closing all evidence of a room behind him wended his way to the place of alarm.

CHAPTER XVIII.

News From the Stone House.

Oscar Metzger, one of the surviving cowboys, and the one who had been trusted with returning to the Stone House on forming the compact, was found at the door when the trapper responded that night. He had ridden the journey in great haste and considered that the circumstances demanded it.

All was tumult at the Stone House. Old Egan and his warriors had surrounded the place and would accept no terms of peace. It was only through an occasional gift by the Lord of The Desert to the old chief that he had kept on peaceful terms with him so long for the old chief had always considered the "White Grizzly," as he called him, a menace to the Indian's welfare and an encroacher upon his rights; besides this, the horses and cattle of the Lord of The Desert had always been considered a valuable prize and the late improved guns and revolvers about the place had more than once almost gotten the better of the chief's good intentions; and now that he had caught Dan Follett, the Lord of The Desert's right hand man and henchman, in the act of making away with his horses, and then trailed him back to the Stone House, he took it for granted that it was a ruse on the part of the "White Grizzly" to rob him, and considered all obligations of amity between them closed.

It was the blow that he had long desired to strike and he had come fully prepared to strike it.

After the capture of Follett the chief had pursued the Warm Springs Indians until he had killed or captured a majority of them and retaken all of his horses and several more besides, and then returned to his camp at the foot of Ash Butte. In the meantime he had wrung from one of the Warm Springs warriors the confession that Follett had come to the Warm Springs camp and persuaded them to embark in the enterprise against the Piutes. The old chief suspected this, but he wished to assure his warriors of the fact to make them the more sanguine in the attack upon the Stone House.

On the night of their arrival at Ash Butte a strong guard had been placed over Follett, but a stronger guard had been placed about the horses, which were also carefully corraled that night. Both guards were instructed to keep a vigilant watch, the one to see that their prisoner escaped and the other to see that he did not secure a horse.

Late in the night Follett's guard "faked" sleep and the wily Frenchman crawled away as lightly as a cat. When once in the darkness and alone he looked about to secure a horse but he saw the forms of Egan's warriors silhoutted against the horizon whenever he discovered the dark outline of an animal. In making his last attempt to secure one of the animals, and when he thought he was about to be rewarded for his trouble, a warrior shouted the Indian word for "coyote," and a dozen arrows "whished" in close proximity to him. Then he saw them sneaking in his direction as if to surround him, and he made away through the sage brush, striking boldly out across the desert, guided by the north star.

To add to his discomfort the Indians had removed his hat and coat and boots that night and he was now a fugitive on the desert without a coat, hat or shoes.

Old Egan had arranged his plans, and history itself records the fact that this old chief always laid them well. Couriers had already been sent to other allies of his tribe, while scouts were put on Dan Follett's trail to see that he went to the Stone House.

These scouts had followed him, climbing among the rimrocks by day and observing him as he picked his way across the plain, and then followed by night. They had seen him visit the trapper's abode, and had followed him on until he entered the Stone House. In the meantime Old Egan had mustered his men and, two hundred strong, had started for the Stone House, while he expected as many more allies to join him there sooner or later. There were marauders among the Modocs and Klamaths that he could count on, and he had sent for these also.

The destruction of the power of the Lord of The Desert had long been contemplated and the time had now come.

Egan was not slow to look after his own interests. To arrive first upon the scene and select a few of the choicest of the "White Grizzly's" cattle and horses and make way with them before the arrival of his allies was his purpose, and then besiege the whites until his allies arrived and then crush the enemy and divide the remaining spoils.

And he was not slow in action. Dan Follett reached the Stone House just after dark one night, and the following morning found Old Egan's warriors around the entire premises at a safe distance from the loop-holes of the outer walls, while a detachment of his men had driven away select bands of horses ad cattle.

The first cowboy to go without the enclosure that morning received an unmistakable warning in the form of a feathered arrow which was battered against the wall near his head. Then he saw the war bonnets of the Piutes protruding above the rocks and boulders in every direction and rushed back into the enclosure, followed by a shower of arrows, and gave the alarm.

There were about 50 of the inmates all told and all owned revolvers, but there were not more than half that number of rifles. They were well prepared for defense against an ordinary Indian attack, but it was not thought safe to go into the open against the odds that appeared before them in ambush. They made a sally just before night, but in the open the Indians had an advantage from behind the rocks and fences and the cowboys returned with some loss in wounded.

It was then that the Lord of The Desert decided to send for relief. General Crook had recently arrived at old Fort Warner and, expecting that the Indians would guard the trail toward this point, Martin Lyle knew but one man that he could trust to reach the Fort, and that was William Hammersley. He called for a volunteer to carry a message to the trapper and Metzker, anxious to return to the trapper's abode was quick to volunteer and was more quickly selected to carry the missive. He had slipped through the enemy's lines without mishap and made his way to the trapper's quarters bringing the trapper a request from the Lord of The Desert to go to the government fort for aid at once and promising him a liberal reward for his trouble.

(To be Continued.)

POLICEMAN'S LESSON.

One Tells How Reckless He Was with His Weapons at First.

"Experience is certainly a good teacher," observed a member of the Washington police force while discussing the order of Maj. Sylvester concerning the establishment of a school of instruction. "Some instruction to new appointees," he added, "is absolutely necessary, and with the proper start experience will do the rest.

"I remember my first tour of duty, which was many years ago, and I also remember that it not only came near being my last, but came near resulting disastrously for me. Having been sworn in and sent out to do police duty without being instructed as to my rights, I started over the beat to which I was assigned armed with all the dangerous weapons usually carried by policemen.

"These weapons were not intended for mere playthings I thought and that I had a right to use them under any and all circumstances I did not doubt. Should I want to make an arrest for any violation of the law and was unable to overtake the offender I was satisfied that I had the right to stop him with a bullet.

"During the evening," the policeman continued, according to the Washington Star, "I came across a party of crap shooters on the commons, and that I thought was an opportunity to distinguish myself. Being unable to overtake those who had participated in the game I proceeded to send bullets toward them, and only gave up my efforts when I had emptied my pistol. So far as I was concerned the affair was fun for me, but I nearly dropped dead when a friend informed me that I might have been given a penitentiary sentence had one of the bullets from my pistol taken effect.

"During the succeeding twenty years or more I did not find it necessary to discharge my revolver. Experience proved a good teacher for me, although proper instruction at the time of my appointment would have avoided the possibility of my being sent to prison."

AN UP-COUNTRY SOLOMON.

He Rendered a Very Wise and Equitable Decision.

In a small town in one of the central counties of New York State lives an old German, who, because of the high esteem in which he is held in the community, was elected justice of the peace. The old gentleman was once called upon, says the New York Times, to decide a most perplexing question.

One of his fellow citizens owned a dog which, although not very vicious, had a bad habit of barking at passers-by. A neighbor vowed vengeance. His chance came when he was returning from a shooting trip, gun in hand. The dog ran out and barked savagely at him, and he fired at the animal. As his aim was bad, the dog escaped, yelping, with nothing more serious than a wounded tail.

The owner of the dog had his neighbor brought before the old justice on a charge of cruelty to animals, and the court-room was crowded with the partisans of both men. The justice heard the charge, and then the defense that the dog was a dangerous animal and a menace to the neighborhood. The old German cleared his throat and delivered the dictum:

"Der man—he has been guilty of cruelty to animals." And one side of the court-room applauded the justice of the decision.

"But der tog—he vas a vicious tog." And the other side voiced its approval.

"I vill fine der man five tollars." Another murmur in the court-room.

"But I vill gif him anoder shot at der tog."

PURE FOOD BILL.

Congress Passes Measure with Little Opposition—Text of the Law.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The House has passed the pure-food bill by a vote of 72 to 21. There was not a quorum present, but the point was not raised by the opponents of the measure. The speakers were Richardson of Alabama, Hepburn of Iowa, Gaines of Tennessee and Schirm of Maryland, for the measure, and Chandler of Mississippi against it.

A bill was passed to donate a piece of ground to Clallam, Wash.

At 3:30 the House adjourned.

What the Bill Includes.

The pure-food bill inhibits the introduction into any state or territory, or the District of Columbia, from any other state or territory, or from any foreign country, or the shipment to any foreign country, of any article of food or drug which is adulterated or misbranded. The above inhibition is made to apply to any one shipping, delivering or receiving, within the regions named only, such food adulterated. Adulterations in the bill are defined as follows:

In the case of drugs, if sold under a name recognized in the United States Pharmacopeia, and the drug differs from the standards of strength, quality and purity as determined by the test laid down in such pharmacopeia, at the time of the investigation, so that its strength or purity falls below the professed standard under which it is sold; if it be an imitation of or offered for sale under the name of another article; and, in the case of a confectionery, if it contain terra alba, barytes, talc, chrome yellow or other mineral substances, or poisonous colors or flavors.

In the case of foods, when any substance is mixed with it so as to lower or injuriously effect its quality or strength, so that such product, when offered for sale, shall tend to deceive the purchaser.

If any substance or substances have been substituted so that the product when sold shall tend to deceive the purchaser.

If any valuable constituent of an article has been wholly or in part abstracted.

If it be an imitation of or offered for sale under the distinct name of another article.

If it be mixed, colored, powdered or stained in a manner whereby damage or inferiority is conceded.

If it contain any added or poisonous ingredient which may render such article injurious to health.

If it is falsely labeled as a foreign product or imitation of another substance of a previously established name, or which has been trade-marked or patented.

If it consists, in whole or in part, of a filthy, decomposed or putrid animal or vegetable substance, or any portion of animal unfit for food, or if it is the product of a diseased animal or one that has died otherwise than by slaughter.

The last section of the bill provides that any article of food or drug that is adulterated or misbranded within the meaning of this bill, and is transported, or being transported, from one state to another for sale, or if it be sold in the District of Columbia or the territories, or if it be imported from a foreign country, shall be liable to confiscation by a process of libel for condemnation in the United States courts. Such goods, if it also provided, shall not be sold in any state contrary to the laws thereof.

BLOCKADE IS ON.

All Venezuelan Ports are Closed—Grace Allowed Ships En Route.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 23.—Admiral Douglas, of the British fleet, has ordered the blockade of La Guayra, Carenero, Guanta, Cumana, Carupano and the mounths of the Orinoco River. This blockade is now in effect. Days of grace are allowed as follows:

To vessels sailing prior to the date of the decree of blockade from the West Indian ports and from the east coast of the continent of America—Steamers, 10 days; sailing vessels, 20 days.

From other ports—Steamers, 20 days; sailing vessels, 40 days.

Vessels in the blockaded ports will be allowed 15 days to obtain clearances. Violaters of the blockade will be liable under the law.

It is intimated here that the blockade probably will not last longer than 30 days.

MARCHING ON CARACAS.

Rebel Army of 10,000 Said to Be Coming Towards the Capital.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 23.—It is reported here that the Venezuelan revolutionary Generals Penaloza, Rolando, Riera and Solague, with a force said to number 10,000 men, are marching on Caracas, and are believed now to be near that city. Cable messages coming from Venezuela to this port are subjected to censorship.

Germans Hurried Them.

Caracas, Dec. 23.—When the German cruiser Falke captured the Venezuelan schooner Victoria in the Gulf of Maracaibo, the captain of the vessel was given 10 minutes to leave his ship. A heavy sea was running at the time, and the small boat in which the Venezuelans disembarked was nearly capsized. As it was, one of the schooner's crew was drowned. It has been learned that the captain of the Victoria was not aware of Venezuela's difficulties with Germany and Great Britain.

Chinamen Sent Back Home.

New York, Dec. 23.—United States Commissioner Benedict has ordered the deportation of 12 Chinamen who had not been registered under the exclusion act and could not show that they arrived in the United States before the passage of the act.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

Extensive Apple Canning Establishment Started at Linnton—Driving Sugar Pine Logs Down Rogue River—Large Supply of Wood for State Insane Asylum—Foreign Voters in Astoria.

Candidates for U. S. senator are exceedingly numerous.

Linn county jail is full to overflowing, the first time in several years.

The city elections at Monmouth were very quiet, there being only one ticket in the field.

A hobo was sentenced to one year in the penitentiary for stealing a jar of jam. It was his second offense.

W. C. Russell, an actor, was arrested at Helix on the charge of having played a copyrighted play without permission.

Registration in Astoria previous to the recent elections showed more foreign-born voters than native Americans there.

The O. R. & N. contemplates putting a dining car on its through trains and cutting out the stop at the famous Log Cabin eating house at Meacham for meals.

About 30 members of the Marion County Bar association will try to have a continual session of the criminal department of the state circuit court inaugurated at the coming session of the legislature.

A drive of 100,000 feet of pine logs is on its way down the Rogue river. If the drive is successful many more will follow, as there is a vast quantity of fine sugar pine in the Upper Rogue river country.

An extensive and profitable apple-canning industry has been started up at Linnton. There is an almost unlimited supply of the fruit good for cooking, but for which there is no market in its natural state.

Six Albany boys are under arrest for tormenting a Chinese swill-gatherer, and finally assaulting him and striking him on the head with a rock, rendering him insensible. They are liable to terms in the penitentiary for their frolic.

The board of trustees for the state insane asylum accepted 2,160 cords of big fir wood at from $1.93½ to $3 per cord, 40 cords of oak at $3.80, for the main buildings, and 650 cords of second-growth fir at from $2.25 to $2.50 per cord, and 106 cords of old fir for the farm buildings.

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

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

The Northern Del Norte mining district, just south of Waldo, Josephine county, is becoming one of the most active mining districts of this section of the West. Since the rich copper discoveries made there last spring a number of miners have gone into the district and many claims have been taken up and are being developed.

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.

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

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.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70@71c; bluestem 78@79c; valley, 75@76c.

Barley—Feed, $23.50 per ton; brewing, $24.00.

Flour—Best grade, 3.60@4 10; graham, $3.20@3.60.

Millstuffs—Bran, $19.00 per ton; middlings, $23.50; shorts, $19.50; chop, $15.

Oats—No. 1 white, $1.15@1.17½; gray, $1.12½@1.15 per cental.

Hay — Timothy, $10@11; clover, $9.00; cheat, $8@9 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 60@70c per sack; ordinary, 50@60c per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, $1.75@$2 per cental.

Poultry — Chickens, mixed, 11c; young, 10c; hens, 11@11½c; turkeys, live, 13@14c; dressed, 15@17½; ducks, $5@6 per dozen; geese, $6.50@7.

Cheese — Full cream, twins, 16½@17½c; Young America, 17½@18½; factory prices, 1@1½c less.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½@30c per pound; extras, 30c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 15@18.

Eggs—25@35c per dozen.

Hops—New crop, 23@26c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 12½@15c; Eastern Oregon, 8@14½c; mohair, 26@28c.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3@3½c per pound; steers, 4c; dressed, 6@7c.

Veal—7½@8½c.

Mutton — Gross, 3c per pound; dressed, 6c.

Lambs — Gross, 3½c per pound; dressed, 6½c.

Hogs—Gross, 6¼@6½c per pound; dressed, 7@7½c.

PRESIDENT COMING WEST.

Secretary Now at Work on Itinerary—A Word to Entertainment Committees.

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Roosevelt is already giving his attention to the Western trip which he plans to take in the Spring. Secretary Cortelyou is at work on the itinerary, or, rather, the itineraries, for he is making several. At least three trips will be laid out, and circumstances will determine which shall be chosen. If state affairs are urgent it will be the shorter one, while if affairs are going smoothly, the President will be away six weeks or more.

Chicago will be visited early in the trip, as it is the plan to carry out the programme which was interrupted by the operation on the President's leg. Then he will go to Milwaukee, through Wisconsin, to St. Paul and Minneapolis and westward to the Yellowstone Park, and on to the Coast, stopping at Puget Sound cities, Portland and San Francisco. The President has invitations from every state in the Union west of the Mississippi River.

Local committees making plans will do well to have regard to the President's desire that Secretary Cortelyou be included n all plans for entertaining the President. This reminder mght seem superfluous, but experience has shown that it is not. There are 19 reasons, any of which is good and sufficient why the President wants his secretary to be at his elbow day and night, in carriages, at dinners, at private residences where he may be entertained, and at public functions. Any plans which are not to this effect will have to be altered.

NATIONAL CALAMITY.

Santa Maria Still Active—Price of Necessities So High Few Can Buy Them.

Guatemala City, Guatemala, Dec. 20.—It is probably due to some government instructions that the papers here have not said anything with reference to the eruption of the Santa Maria volcano, which can be considered, because of its magnitude as a national calamity. The losses suffered by German capital are not less than $6,500,000, consisting of houses and machinery destroyed, and the destruction of the present coffee crop. If the total destruction of many other properties belonging to other foreigners, as well as to natives, is added to this amount, the actual losses ascend to a fantastic sum.

The volcano is still in activity and a new eruption is feared at any time. Suffering is indescribable, for, besides the loss of coffee, which is estimated at about 300,000 quintals, the corn and wheat fields are ruined.

Owing to the unusually high rate of exchange, business is entirely paralyzed, for all imported articles have reached such prices that very few persons can afford to buy them, and most of the merchants sell just enough to cover their expenses.

The worst part of the present bad condition is that no one knows how or when it will change, and it is almost unendurable just now. Articles of first necessity have reached inaccessible prices, and the poor class of people are suffering therefrom.

REMODELED A CLUB FOOT.

Surgeon Lorenz First Crushed It, Then Formed It as Nature Should.

New York, Dec. 20.—Dr. Lorenz has for the first time since he arrived in New York operated on a club foot. The patient was a 4-year-old girl. Dr Lorenz kneeded and twisted the crippled foot until it was as soft and pliable as a piece of putty. Then he deftly molded it into its proper form, and announced that the operation was completed and a plaster cast was fitted to the foot. The doctor said that the child should be allowed to use her foot as much as she could after four or five days, and that it would be necessary to keep the cast on for six or seven months, after which she could walk.

Four operations for congenital dislocations were performed and at their close Dr. Lorenz showed that he was a tired man.

THIS IS SANTA'S BUSIEST YEAR.

Prosperity Has Enabled Him to Break All Previous Records in Liberality.

New York, Dec. 20.—Mail money order records have been broken in the Central postoffice, Wednesday's transactions amounting to $1,168,741. This included money orders issued, both domestic and foreign, the certificates of deposit issued to out-of-town postmasters, money orders paid and money order drafts. European advices brought the information that the incoming Christmas mail would be much larger this year than ever before. The Cymric, bound for New York, is said to have on board 2600 bags of mail. The Etruria is also coming with 1805, the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse with 660 and the St. Louis with 300, a total of 5365.

Warning to Westerners.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Secretary of the Treasury went to the Harlem dinner in a Tuxedo coat. That was a sin—a violation of the law of etiquette—almost inexcusable. For the President of the United States was there, and where the President of the United States is, it is a full-dress function. This might be a good thing to remember when the President is on his visitation, of the West next Spring. If you have a long-tailed coat get it out.

Found $100,000 on a Beggar.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Ely Hyman, a Jew, who begged for admision to the general hospital here on Saturday, is dead. An examination of his clothing resulted in finding script worth $31,000. Other papers showed him to be worth probably $100,000. For twenty years he has slept in sheds and stables. He sold papers and begged. His heirs are his wife and daughter, living, it is thought, in San Francisco.

READY TO SETTLE

CASTRO EMPOWERS UNITED STATES MINISTER TO MAKE PEACE.

Makes No Restrictions Whatever, Fully Realizing That His Nation Would Be Powerless in Actual War—Venezuelan Rebels Active—Evidence That They Are Working with the Powers.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The settlement of the Venezuelan difficulty now rests with United States Minister Bowen, to whom President Castro has entrusted full power to negotiate terms with the allies.

Castro desires that the peace conference be held in Washington, and to that end has asked Bowen to go there.

Castro has changed his attitude toward the allies, allowing the German Minister to land and talk by telephone to his sick wife, and allowing the British ships to send men ashore for provisions.

The rebels are becoming more active in the interior, and Castro is said to have evidence that they have co-operated with the allies, and that arms and ammunition have been furnished them.

Caracas, Dec. 22.—Lopez Baralt, Venezuela Minister of Foreign Affairs, has transmitted to United States Minister Bowen a document signed by President Castro as constitutional President of the republic, and countersigned by himself as Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which Mr. Bowen is recognized as the only representative of Venezuela in the matter of effecting a settlement of the difficulty with the European powers.

According to the terms of this document, Mr. Bowen may act without restriction, and he is to use all means possible to protect the interests of Venezuela. The State Department at Washington has been notified of the transmission of this instrument to Mr. Bowen.

Events here are dependent upon the receipt, through the State Department, of the answers of the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the proposal of arbitration advanced by Venezuela. These answers are expected tomorrow. Should they be favorable, the Venezuelan government strongly desires that a conference of the Ambassadors of Great Britain, Germany and Italy to the United States be held in Washington, and that Mr. Bowen leave La Guayra December 23 for the United States on board the Steamer Caracas, which is due to reach New York December 29.

Mr. Bowen will meet the Ambassadors in Washington. No meeting to discuss terms of settlement is to be held on Venezuelan soil.

"El Mocho" Hernandez, the released revolutionary leader, called at the American Legation this morning for the purpose of paying his respects to Minister Bowen. This afternoon President Castro, accompanied by his wife, also called at the Legation, where he stayed for three-quarters of an hour.

Lefutenant Van Duzen, of the gunboat Marietta, has been sent here from La Guayra to act as secretary to Mr. Bowen.

Merchants of all nationalities here hope that the arbitration proposal will be accepted, and that, as a result of the present efforts to reach a pacific settlement, the proposed blockade of La Guayra, Puerto Cabello, Maracaibo, Coro, Carupano and Barcelona, announced for December 20, will not become effective.

British and German ships of war are paying daily visits to Margarita Island. Pearl-fishing boats from Margarita report the presence of three men-of-war near Juan Griego.

Allied Powers Helping Rebels.

Caracas, Dec. 22.—Documents and letters which have been secured by the Venezuelan authorities are said to prove the connection of the Matos revolutionists with the recent demonstration of the allies against Venezuela.

It is reported that, since the capture of the Venezuelan fleet, munitions of war have been shipped openly from Willemstad to ports on the Venezuelan coast, and steamers are said to have sailed from Port of Spain, Trinidad, with the knowledge, it is alleged, of the British authorities there, bearing arms and ammunition to the Venezuelan revolutionists at Ciudad Baliver, on the Orinoco River.

St. Louis Exposition Stamps.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Postoffice Department is just about to take up the subject of the special issue of stamps to be designed for the St. Louis Exposition. Even so early it is understood that George H. Daniels, that enterprising publicity expert of the New York Central, is to have on one stamp a picture of his 24-hour flyer. Last time it was the Empire State Express which served as a model for rapid railway transit, and Mr. Daniels again claims the distinction of furnishing the speediest model.

Another Industry for Washington.

Chehalis, Wash., Dec. 22.—John W. Reynolds and Murphy & Stuchell have completed arrangements for putting in a new factory at Chehalis. The new plant will manufacture bedsprings and mattresses, make moldings and do upholstering as well as doing a general planing-mill business. The site chosen adjoins the railway a hundred yards north of the stockyards. This is the fourth factory established in Chehalis within a year.

Earthquake in Costa Rica.

San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 22.—Two violent earthquakes were experienced here at 4 o'clock this morning. The people were greatly alarmed, but there were no casualities. Several other shocks followed at intervals. These, however, were of diminishing severity.