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LORD OF THE DESERT

By Paul de Lanzy

CHAPTER XV.

Indian Telegraphy—A Captive.

When the sun was a little less than two hours high the smoke began to curl from the rimrocks at the point where the raiders' outlook had stood at noon. The Warm Springs warriors, headed by their chief and Dan Follett, had made a detour to the south of the main trail and hoped to avoid the band of warriors from the southwest by hiding among the sand dunes until they had passed. But when they discovered the smoke rising from the rimrocks they feared that they were discovered and that the Snakes were already signaling their whereabouts to the two approaching bands. The war party from the southeast, which had been joined by Old Egan himself early in the forenoon whose horse had escaped the vigilance of the raiders the previous night, upon reaching the noon camp of the Warm Springs party had sent a scout to search the plains for the escaping raiders. He had no sooner reached the summit of the rimrocks than the cloud of dust among the sand dunes showed him that the raiders and their horses were there; and the cloud of dust farther on to the southwest gave him the further knowledge that the other band of Egan's warriors had seen the early morning signal fires and were coming to aid in recapturing the stolen horses. The lookout gathered several arms full of sage brush from among the rocks and started a fire, the Indian's means of telegraphy, and soon signaled the two Piute bands of the whole situation.

With a shout of exultation Egan's braves hurried toward the common center.

The only hope before the raiders was to evade the Snakes until nightfall and then make their escape in the darkness.

It was their intention, in case they encountered the Piutes, to have 40 of the warriors under their chief and Dan Follett engage the enemy while ten of the raiders would attempt to escape with the horses. But in case of defeat the raiders were each to select an extra horse, abandon the others and make their way out of the country as best they could. If night should come upon them before the arrival of the Piutes, then they had great hopes of escaping. But they were doomed to disappointment. Shortly before sundown a band of Piutes from the southwest was upon them. The raiders took shelter behind the sand dunes and with this advantage, held their enemy at bay for some time. The men with the horses proceeded at a rapid pace, while the fight continued in their rear and as the Piutes pressed the raiders they backed from sand dune to sand dune, disputing every inch of the ground. While it was a warm and determined engagement there was but little fatality as the men of each side sheltered themselves behind the sand dunes. But this scene was changed about the time of sunset. The other band of Piutes arrived and attacked the raiders from the other side. Thus attacked from front and rear the Warm Springs warriors were compelled to retreat and as they did so a great yell arose from the Piutes who gave them a warm chase. When the raiders overtook the party in charge of the stolen horses they hurriedly took possession of an extra horse each and abandoned the others, hoping to escape in the darkness.

But the Piutes were not satisfied with finding a portion of their horses. Flushed with victory a majority rushed on while a few stopped to corral the horses that had been abandoned.

Dan Follett was no less daring than he was a villain. Seeing in the dusk of night a small detachment of the Piutes, he turned and drew his revolvers and faced them, considering that every moment's time should be gained at this point that was possible. He was a splendid marksman and when the Indians had approached within range of his revolvers he began firing, and in his madness rushed toward them. He repulsed and routed them for a moment, but in his zeal he made a fatal mistake. Flushed with his gain of time he had crowded them still farther when, suddenly, he discovered that a larger detachment of well mounted Piutes had encircled him and cut him off from the main band of his friends. He turned and attempted to ride through the Piute lines but discovered that his revolvers were now empty and there was no time for reloading. They surrounded his instantly and took him a prisoner, and when the dashing marauding chief, for it was Old Egan himself who led the band, laid his hand upon Follett, he exclaimed:

"You make better Piute than Warm Springs Indian. Warm Springs Indian coward, run away and leave you, Piute stay with you, and now you stay with Piute." chuckled the old chief as he ordered his men to bind the captive securely and guard him closely.

The Piutes pursued the raiders for some distance and took several more horses and prisoners before they abandoned the trail.

It was late in the night before the camp was established, and the Piutes were tired and hungry, but there was one prisoner whose security was looked after and his name was Dan Follett.

CHAPTER XVI.

A Big Haul.

Bertha had spent several days with her father and provided for his every wish. Hammersley had rearranged things generally about the place, giving his home a better appearance. Julian Byrd, the cowboy, had also been busy and besides providing game and other essentials a good supply of wood had also been stored away for the approaching winter. It was not known how long it would take Al. Beach to ferrit out the whereabouts of William Lyle, or his descendants and it was decided to wait his return before action and, in the meantime, preserve a silence as to the safety of Bertha and her father as well as to keep secret all of the matters agreed upon.

As the episode of Bertha's arrival and the stirring events thereafter had prevented the trapper from looking after his traps for a longer period than usual, it was decided that he should now make the rounds that he had started upon in which he was thwarted by discovering Old Egan and his party with their captive. Preparations were completed one night for the trip. Julian was to accompany the trapper, while Bertha remained by her father and administered to his wants. She was admonished by the trapper to remain close and at no time show herself should anyone appear. He gave the place the usual appearance of his absence, after Bertha had taken her quarters in the secret chamber, and he and the cowboy left early in the morning to visit the traps, expecting to be gone several days.

The first day out was spent in taking coyotes from the traps near at hand. These cunning animals had occasionally been caught by the bait set for them, but yielded the least percentage of revenue, according to numbers, of the animals that fell victims to the trapper's strategem. The plains fairly swarmed with these animals, yet the number of marten and wild cat caught by the traps was almost as large. The trapper paid especial attention to the latter class of animals, however, as their skins were much prized in the market and brought large prices.

When they had reached a point among the most cavernous rimrocks the traps showed greater success in the finer fur catch as this was the abode of the marten and wild cat. After they reached the outskirts of

She saw a sight that dumbfounded her.

the last natural meadow, and were at the edge of the great barren waste that extended to the rocky gorges surrounding Stein's mountain, they came upon the big traps. Here they found evidences of big game also.

While passing along a deep gorge the trapper's eyes brightened and he exclaimed: "Grizzly, sure as you live!" He then pointed to where he had left a huge trap and then to the trail left behind where the bear had dragged it, and the heavy weight attached to it, up the gorge. The trapper immediately looked to his rifle and followed the trail eagerly. It brought back the old times—the occupation which he had followed so long alone and the exciting events in a trapper's life.

"Be on the lookout!" cautioned the trapper to his companion, "he may show fight when we come upon him, and it will not do to get too close to him."

On they followed the trail losing it occasionally among the rocks but as soon as soil and sage brush were found they found the evidences again. They had entered a sub-canyon and were passing through a point at which a late spring seep from the mountain side had moistened the ground and produced a high growth of sage brush along the banks of the channel of the gulch and the trapper again preserved unusual precaution. As they were elbowing their way through the tall sage brush that overlapped the channel, the trapper carrying his rifle ready for action, there was a swish, an unearthly cry, and a mountain lion sprang up in the sage brush to the left and tried to leap upon the two men. But Hammersley fired instantly and the charge entered the animals heart. They approached the dead animal cautiously and found why it had reared up so straight in the air and had been unable to leap. One of Hammersley's great traps had cut its saw-teeth deep into the animal's left hind leg and held it fast.

The animal had been caught several days previously, and had dragged the trap to this point where it became entangled and could get no farther. They lost no time here, however. This was a big haul, but the trapper was more desirous of overtaking the grizzly.

But they were not kept long in suspense. They came to a narrow point in the canyon where the big animal had attempted to force the heavy weight that was attached to the trap between two huge boulders and had pulled upon it so strongly that it had become fastened and the animal could go no farther. With a surly growl he warned them of their danger before they even saw him. As he tore against the chain attached to the trap for his freedom, however, they saw the side of his huge body beyond the boulder.

Hammersley watched the great animal for a few moments and then approaching the boulders cautiously, he placed his rifle on the boulder and fired a ball into the animal's brain, killing him instantly.

Grizzlys, even in those days, were rare catches and the trapper informed Byrd that he was now satisfied with the trip and they proceed to skin the animal and prepare for the return. It was necessary to spend the night here, which they did, but before it was late they had the skin of the mountain lion also beside the grizzly's, and early the following morning started home, gathering up the hides of marten, wildcat and coyotes as they proceeded; and it is needless to say that when they arrived home they were loaded down, in fact, the horse which had been left hobbled on the way was pressed into service and was also loaded with all that could be conveniently packed upon him.

Bertha was greatly surprised and interested in the skins of the great wild animals, but she had news for them that she deemed of more importance to their future and the projects they had in view.

While they were absent some one had entered the front apartments of the place and had spent the night. Woman's curiosity led Bertha to break the admonition given her by the trapper. She had done so without exposing herself or the secret chamber, however, and this mitigated her crime. But the discovery that she made, she thought might be of importance to her friends.

Upon looking through an aperture into the front room she had seen a sight that dumfounded her. The face was first like a dream to her. It seemed darker and wore a more forlorn look than when she had last seen it. The man was barefooted and bareheaded and he had no coat. His feet were a mass of wounds, freshly made, and she knew that he must have traveled many miles over the sharp rocks and through the sage brush, for his pants legs at the bottom were worn into shreds.

Again and again she watched him as he prepared and ate his meal. She knew that she had seen him before, but where? But when he prepared to leave in the morning she recognized him. He placed a pair of the trapper's old moccasins on his feet, after he had wrapped them well, placed a bundle of food in a bag and then took an old hat he found hanging on the wall, when he placed the hat on his head, the broad brim shaded the face and cut the profile down, making it recognizable. It was Dan. Follett!

(To be Continued.)

AN ARTISTIC ROMANCE.

Discovery of Pagan Bas-Relief in Convent Where Nuns Had Hacked It.

A Paris convent would appear the most unlikely of places to shelter a masterpiece by Clodion, but a most important work by the 18th century sculptor, whose inspiration was so pronouncedly pagan, has been brought to light in a convent in the Latin quarter. Its history is rather curious. The building in which the Clodion has remained unappreciated and in which indeed its presence has been resented for over a century, was not originally intended to serve as a convent. It was constructed by Brougniart for Princess Louise of Conde and gallantly decorated by sundry of the first artists of the day, Clodion included, who executed a bas relief of very considerable dimensions representing a number of fawns, nymphs and Cupids at play. It fell out that destiny was unkind to Mlle. de Conde. She lost her heart to M. de la Gervaisais, who was several years her junior, and of no birth to espouse a lady of her rank. They exchanged some very pretty love letters, which were published not long ago by M. Paul Viollet, but the opposition to their marriage being insurmountable, the princess renounced the world, took the vows, and became the Mother Superior of a community of Benedictine nuns who took up their quarters in the newly erected palace. The Clodion was entombed. The expression is literally accurate, for at a period which is not known with precision the master's work, condemned as a source of offense to pious eyes, was hidden from view by a plaster wall specially erected to mask it. Iconoclasm has often been drastic in its methods, so the nuns may be pardoned. Still, but for an accident the very existence of the Clodion might long have remained unsuspected. During the bombardment of Paris by the Germans the convent was struck by a shell, which brought down the plaster wall and showed the bas relief, happily without damaging it. The work has since been allowed to see the light of day, with the result that that most indefatigable of searchers, M. Lenotre, the author of "Vieilles Maisons Vieux Papiers," got wind of its existence, and called the attention of the Society of Lovers of Old Paris to his find. All risk of the Clodion coming to harm is now at an end, but what will be its ultimate fate is uncertain, as, though the City of Paris is anxious to acquire possession of it, the price demanded—$40,000—is a difficulty.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Mourning Evil.

The use of crepe for mourning veils is becoming less every day, and in summer the crinkly fabric is scarcely seen. Many physicians protest against women wearing crepe veils at any season of the year, and the nun's veiling, grenadine, and similar materials have to a large extent, replaced the crepe drapery that formerly was a distinctive badge of bereavement.

For widows or other women wearing crepe mourning it is the fancy at present to wear a short veil of fine grenadine or gauze, falling in graceful folds at the back and draped on a bonnet frame of light weight, edged with a narrow band of crepe. A bow of crepe adorns the front of the bonnet.

How much should one talk in order to be interesting, and yet do no damage? It is a pity such things cannot be measured in pints and quarts, so that every one could know when he has had his share.

When a cross baby cries to go to its mother, its father is perfectly willing for once that it should have just what it wants.

VENEZUELANS ARE ARMING.

Troops and Guns Sent to La Guayra and Volunteers Enrolled.

La Guayra, Venezuela, Dec. 13.—The British cruiser Indefatigable arrived here at 6 o'clock this evening from Guanta, the port of Barcelona, where she is believed to have been in search of the Venezuelan gunboat Restuardor.

The German cruiser Vineta and the British cruiser Retribution left here at 6 o'clock this evening. It is supposed they have on board Venezuela's answer to the demand of the foreign powers, which arrived from Caracas on a special at 2 o'clock.

What is termed an inopportune demonstration and the strange method resorted to is the remittance to the Venezuelan foreign minister of the demands of Great Britain and Germany, which are freely criticised here.

The government has sent 2,000 men and 18 guns from Caracas to reinforce the garrison at La Guayra. These troops are camped at Cuaracuti, distant one hour from La Guayra. All day and all night ammunition has been carried to Fort Lavigita, which crowns the harbor, and preparations are being made to resist the foreign forces.

Volunteers to the number of 926 men, all from La Guayra, have been armed today, and more are requesting arms. It is asserted here that the government can find sufficient men to resist the foreign forces, as the movement is popular. Everywhere one meets all classes and conditions carrying Mauser rifles.

The news of the capture at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, of the Venezuelan gunboat Bolivar by the British cruiser Charybdis was communicated to President Castro by a representative of the Associated Press. The event caused great excitement.

The president has called on all Venezuelan citizens between the ages of 18 and 50 to take up arms in the defense of the country.

PAY OF COMMISSIONERS.

Senate Decides on a Lump Sum for Each of the Strike Arbitrators.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The senate late yesterday afternoon passed, with several amendments, the bill fixing the compensation of the anthracite coal strike commission, and it now goes to conference. Sentiment was strongly in favor of allowing the members of the commission who are not employes of the government a lump sum for their service, and after much debate $4,000 was settled upon as the proper amount, thus taking the matter out of the hands of the president.

Several other amendments were adopted, fixing the expenses of the commissioners and the assistant recorders at $10 per day, and leaving the question of the amount of salary of the assistant recorders and employes to the commission. The name of the commission was changed to "Anthracite Coal Strike Arbitration."

An amendment by Daniel, of Virginia, intended to prohibit officers in the civil or military branches of the government from serving on commissions or performing duties other than called for by law, provoked a lengthy discussion, and in response to appeals of Allison and Hoar was finally withdrawn. At 2 o'clock the statehood bill came up and there was a brisk exchange between Quay, who favors the omnibus bill, and senators who oppose it. Quay and Bate said they were ready to vote. Beveridge, Lodge, Hale and others protested against pressing the bill so soon after it was reported, and it went over until Monday.

Paris Exhibit at St. Louis.

Paris, Dec. 13.—The prefect of the Seine has submitted to the municipal council a memorial on the advantages to be gained by a liberal representation of Paris at the St. Louis exposition, and asking for an appropriation of $36,000, which it is expected the council will grant. The memorial points out the Franco-American character of the exposition and urges a Parisian representation which will exceed in its artistic nature that of the Chicago world's fair.

Build Up Japan's Navy.

Tokio, Japan, Dec. 13.—The question of Japan expanding her navy is still unsettled, though it is said to be obliged, as part of the secret conditions attached to the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Marquis Ito, the ex-Premier, is taking a deep interest in the matter, and is endeavoring to compromise the difficulties among the political parties with a view to effecting the expansion without having recourse to the continuance of the land tax.

Accept the Goldsboro.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Robert T. Piatt, of Portland, representing the receivers of the Wolff & Zwicker shipbuilding company, called on Secretary Moody today in company with Senator Simon, for the purpose of inducing the department to accept the torpedo boat Goldsboro for the unpaid balance of $20,000. He urged that, as the Goldsboro now makes as great speed as other vessels of that same plan, 28.1 knots, it should be acceptable to the government.

Diamonds Stolen from Hotel.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—Mrs. Charles H. Blackman, a wealthy widow residing in the Kenwood hotel, has been robbed of $6,000 worth of diamonds. The jewels were taken from her room in the hotel in daylight, and while the parlor, a short distance away, was filled with people. There is no clew to the thief.

NEWS OF OREGON

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF THE STATE.

High Water Damages Eugene Woolen Mill—Minnesota Colony to Locate in Lane County—Ingram Wants Legislature to Aid Him—Oregon Odd Fellows Celebrate 50th Anniversary.

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. Douty 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.

For weeks there has been a systematic hunting of reservoir sites throughout Eastern Oregon. It has developed that when the government committee gets at its work in this arid region it will find every available reservoir site taken by some one who has an eye to business.

A party consisting of about 40 Swedes and Norwegians have left Pendleton to join a larger party in the East, and at New York they will all sail for Europe. After a visit to their old homes the excursionists will return, and expect to bring many of their friends and relatives with them.

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 Wallowa counties, into two districts. Union and Wallowa 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.

A slight earthquake shock was felt at Grants Pass last Saturday.

Local meat dealers of La Grande will establish a first-class packing house.

A colony of Minnesota farmers are negotiating for 30,000 acres of land in Lane county.

The warm and heavy rains of last week have raised the Rogue river to the highest stage it has known for years.

A two days' farmers institute was held at Lewisville, Polk county, this week. A good attendance was out and deep interest manifested.

Governor-elect Chamberlain is at work on his inaugural address. It will not be a long document, but will make a general survey of state affairs. He favors protection for public lands, flat salaries and a liberal appropriation for the Lewis and Clark exposition.

Fire destroyed the planing mill of W. D. Pine, at Rainier. Loss on building and contents, $28,000, partially covered by insurance.

Frank S. Ingram, who was shot while Tracy and Merrill were making their escape from the penitentiary, and who lost his leg as a result, and has since been pardoned by the governor, is circulating a petition asking aid from the legislature to establish him in a small business whereby he may be able to make for himself a living.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—WallaWalla, 71@72c; bluestem 79@80c; valley, 74c.

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

Flour—Best grade, 3.60@3.90; graham, $3.20@3.60.

Millstuffs—Bran, $19.00 per ton; middlings, $23.50; shorts, $19.50; chop, $18.

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@80c per sack; ordinary, 50@55c per cental, growers' prices; Merced sweets, $1.75@$2 per cental.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.00@4.25; per pound, 10c; hens, $4@4.50 per dozen; per pound, 10c; springs, $3.00@3.50 per dozen; fryers, $2.50@3.00; broilers, $2.00@2.50; ducks, $5.00@6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 13c, dressed, 15c; geese, $6.00@6.50.

Cheese — Full cream, twins 15½@16½c; Young America, 16½@17½; factory prices, 1@1½c less.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@32½c per pound; extras, 30c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 15@18.

Eggs—25@30c 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.

TUMULT IN CARACAS.

British and Germans Arrested, Houses Stoned, Flags Burned.

Willemstadt, Curacao, Dec. 12.—There was a great patriotic demonstration in Caracas last night when the news arrived that the British and German warships had seized the Venezuelan war vessels at La Guayra. Crowds quickly gathered and paraded the streets of the capital, displaying banners and singing patriotic songs. Violent speeches were delivered at various points. The populace marched to the palace of President Castro, who addressed them. The mob then moved on to the German legation, shouting:

"Death to the Germans!"

The windows were shattered with stones and attempts made to force the doors, but the latter resisted these efforts, and Madame von Pilgrim-Baltazi, the wife of the German charge, who has been ill in bed for the past two months, and therefore could not leave Caracas with her husband, was thus saved from violence. The crowd then marched to the German consulate and the residence of Dr. Koehler, again stoning the windows and attempting to force an entrance. The police made no effort to disperse the demonstration.

The excitement was still intense when, at 10 o'clock tonight, the government ordered the arrest of all German and English residents. One hour later 125 persons prominent in commercial and social life were crowded together in the police station. All the British residents were arrested except Albert A. Cherry, of the Venezuelan Central railway, and W. W. Wallace, manager of the telephone company, who escaped to a place of safety. Ninety-seven German residents were arrested, among them the German consul, Valentine Blohm, and Herr Knop, manager of the German Central railroad. Herr Simmross, chancellor of the German legation, was met by the police near Bolivar square and arrested.

Amid cries of "Death to the Germans!" and "Down with the foreigners!" the populace directed its way to the German residential quarter and gathered outside the Hotel Klindt and the German club, vociferating and uttering insults. The Belgian charge, F. S. Goffart, was arrested by mistake for a German because of his fair complexion. In spite of his vigorous protests, he was taken to the police station, but was released 10 minutes later.

On learning these incidents, United States Minister Bowen and Secretary W. W. Russell went at once to President Castro, and after a long conference succeeded in obtaining the release of Dr. Koehler, Madame von Pilgrim-Baltazzi's physician, and Consul Valentine Blohm. Minister Bowen obtained the official authorization of the Venezuelan government to represent German and British interests during the imbroglio.

The government has placed an embargo on the British railroad to La Guayra and the German Central railroad from Caracas to Valencia.

The populace is still greatly excited, and the situation is regarded as critical. The British and German flags have been publicly burned.

HAWAII NEEDS JAPANESE.

Protest Against Educational Test Provided in Immigration Bill.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The senate committee on immigration yesterday continued its hearing on the immigration bill, the first witness being William Hayward, representing the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' association and the chamber of commerce of Honolulu. Mr. Hayward's objections were directed solely to the educational test requirements of the bill. This test, he said, would keep out of Hawaii the only labor it can obtain, and in time would produce financial ruin. The Hawaiian planters have tried for years, he said, at great expense to get white labor to work in the fields, but without success. Japan is now the only country from which labor can be obtained, and the educational test would keep out all the Japanese.

Colonel Joseph Smolinski, representing the Polish-American Alliance, also spoke against the educational test. He said there are almost 5,000,000 Slavs in the United States, and declared that many Poles who would make excellent citizens would be kept out by educational tests, and their aspirations for freedom be stifled.

A. P. Anderson, representing the American Line steamship company, took exception to the amendments recently made to the bill imposing fines on transportation companies for bringing in diseased aliens.

Safe-Robbers at Pocatello.

Pocatello, Idaho, Dec. 12.—The safe in the Western Lumber company's office was blown up by burglars early this morning with nitroglycerine. The burglars secured about $50 in money and $75 in checks. The Studebaker manufacturing company's office and the Bistline company's office were also entered, but as the safes at both places were open and contained no money nothing was secured nor any damage done at either place.

Wheat Average Shows Increase.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The statistician of the department of agriculture estimates the newly seeded area of winter wheat at about 34,000,000 acres, an increase of 5.1 per cent upon the area estimated to have been sown in the fall of 1901. The condition of winter wheat on December 1 was 99.7, as compared with 86.7 in 1901; 97.1 in 1900, and a nine-year average of 91.4.

TREATY IS SIGNED

TERMS OF RECIPROCITY ARRANGED BY DIPLOMATS AT HAVANA.

Must Now Be Approved by United States and Cuban Senates—Uniform Reduction of 20 Per Cent, With Specials by Each Country on Many Products—No Further Changes Likely.

Havana, Dec 12.—A definite treaty of commercial reciprocity between Cuba and the United States was signed at 11 o'clock last night by General Bliss and Secretaries Zaldo and Montes. It lacks only the signatures of Secretary Hay and Senor Quesada, and the approval of the United States and Cuban senates to make it operative.

Although the treaty provides for a uniform reduction of 20 per cent from the present tariff charges on Cuban products entering the United States, a parallel list of products has been drawn up in which is set forth the reduction on each item made by Cuba and the United States respectively. It is impossible now to make any material change in this list.

HAY HURRIES COLOMBIA.

Calls for Quicker Action in Panama Canal Negotiations.

Washington, Dec. 15.—At the instance of Secretary Hay, Dr. Herran, Colombian charge d'affaires, called at the state department to discuss the canal treaty negotiations, that the secretary might be able to report the exact status of the canal situation to the cabinet. Dr. Herran was unable to give the secretary any reply from the Bogota government as to the price which Colombia will accept for the lease.

It was explained to Dr. Herran that, in view of the many other weighty diplomatic matters pressing for attention at this time, and the growing impatience at the capitol at the delay in the conclusion of the canal convention, immediate action by the Bogota government was imperative.

Dr. Herran today cabled the foreign office at Bogota the wishes of the state department, and called attention to serious complications that may arise out of the Venezuelan situation.

BANK ROBBERS' BIG HAUL.

They Capture $30,000 in New Mexico and Escape to the Mountains.

St. Louis, Dec. 15.—A special to the Globe-Democrat from Santa Fe, N. M., says:

A report reached Santa Fe late this afternoon that the private bank of Hillsboro, Sierra county, was held up by robbers, who escaped with considerable booty, as but a short time before cattlemen had deposited $30,000.

The deed was done in broad daylight. The robbers made for the northern part of the county. After midnight three men were heard galloping at a furious rate through Fairview, a mining camp, and were headed for the Black Range. A sheriff's posse is in pursuit.

The bank is owned by Pennsylvania capitalists, and is doing a large business. Hillsboro is off the railroad line, the nearest point being Lake Valley, a number of miles to the north. There is no telegraphic communication.

MEXICO IS INTERESTED.

Watching to See How Far the Monroe Doctrine Will Reach.

City of Mexico, Dec. 15.—El Imparcial, the Liberal newspaper, in discussing the Venezuelan troubles, sees in the attitude of Germany and England an attempt to try how far reaching is the shadow, for some threatening, for others protecting, of the Monroe doctrine. Therefore all eyes are now turned toward the capitol at Washington, for the situation may perhaps become very difficult for the American government.

The Mexican Herald says that blood is thicker than water for the Latins as well as for the Anglo-Celts, and that Latin America looks on at the present crisis with anxiety.

New Government Buildings.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The house committee on public buildings and grounds reported favorably the bill appropriating $7,000,000 to purchase a site for a court of justice building for the accommodation of the supreme court of the United States, the department of justice, national law library and international tribunals. The committee also reported the bill, which passed the senate, carrying $2,500,000 for the construction of a new department of agriculture building, but cut the limit to $1,500,000.

Silver Issue in Mexico.

Mexico City, Dec. 15.—The silver question continues to be one of the great topics of public discussion. It is now certain that the silver miners and farming classes will make common cause against the adoption of the gold standard. Meantime all prices are being raised, and there is much anxiety among the middle classes, especially wage earners and salaried men. The cost of living is considered to be out of proportion to incomes.

French Banks Losing Deposits.

New York, Dec. 15.—The withdrawals from the savings banks, says a Paris dispatch to the Times by way of London, in the last 10 days have amounted to $2,000,000, as against $500,000 deposited in the banks. Since the beginning of the year the withdrawals have exceeded the deposits by $25,800,000.