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VENEZUELAN AFFAIRS

The British Side of the Dispute Stated in the Commons.

PREMIER MAKES EXPLANATION

Arbitration Suggestions Come From Castro's Government—The United States Had Nothing to Do With Them—Lord Cranborne Upholds the Monroe Doctrine—The Debate in the Commons.

London, Dec. 16.—The House was crowded last evening when the Venezuelan matter came up for debate. Henry White, the American Charge d'Affaires, had a seat in the diplomatic gallery. Mr. Schwann, after having expressed surprise that the Government was anxious for another war after South Africa, complained of the paucity of the information concerning the Venezuelan situation which has been given to Parliament.

Lord Cranborne spoke for Dr. Schwann. He reproached this member with a desire to discredit the Government, and exclaimed that papers in the Venezuelan matters were very voluminous, and that those issued yesterday were only a summary. He said that Great Britain had to perform police duty among the nations, and had to prevent Venezuela from breaking the law of nations. The United States took the sensible view that Great Britain's insistence that Venezuela should meet her engagements was no infringement of the Monroe Doctrine.

This remark was greeted with cheers. Continuing, the Under-Secretary said the British Government had displayed great forbearance, and that it was only after Venezuela had been thrice summoned to do right that the Government had been driven to strong measures to secure the safety, liberty and property of British subjects in Venezuela, and that in the execution of these measures the Government desired to pursue the same course of moderation.

Lord Cranborne said also that the blockade would be carried out with every regard for the interests of neutrals.

The Liberal Leader.

The Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, then voiced his strong dissatisfaction with Lord Cranborne's speech. He complained of the lack of information about the German and British claims, which he said seemed to be on a different footing. The speaker said he was an advocate of the best possible feeling between the two countries, but that in this matter he was bound to be bound hand and foot to Germany. "We could do nothing with regard to our claims," continued the Liberal leader, "unless the Germans are perfectly satisfied with the settlement of their claims. Such an agreement is contrary to the country's best interest. The speaker said nothing about an important communication received from the United States: that would be universal satisfaction if this communication were of such a nature as to lead to a peaceful solution of what, after all, seems to be a somewhat squallid difficulty."

Premier Balfour's Reply.

Premier Balfour accused the mover and the seconder of the motion to adjourn of a desire to discredit the Government, and said that he was the way to approach a painful international episode. The Premier declared there was no justification for the assumption that the Government was prepared to go to war for the Venezuelan bondholders. The crux of the matter was a series of outrages by Venezuelans on British seamen and ship owners, for which not only had compensation been refused, but Great Britain's remonstrances had been entirely disregarded. It was an intolerable situation, and the Premier denied that the Government had been unduly hasty. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman appeared to desire to co-operate with Germany on his own peculiar terms, but few allies were prepared to act on such a basis.

To Assess Claims Equitably.

Continuing Mr. Balfour said that in so far as the financial claims were concerned, the Government was prepared to agree to a tribunal to assess them equitably. He said also that the United States Government had not suggested arbitration. Anglo-German interests in Venezuela had been entrusted to the American Minister at Caracas, Mr. Bowen, who, with admirable energy, had protected the lives of British and German subjects. The Premier said he understood that it was from Venezuela, through the United States, that the suggestion for arbitration had come. On that point he would only say it was unfortunate that Venezuela should not have thought of the advantages of arbitration during the long period covered by these controversies, but that on the contrary she should have refused all explanation or apology until actually engaged in hostilities; then this idea of arbitration suddenly commended itself to the minds of the Venezuelans.

Criticized the Government.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt and other members of the House then criticized the Government for its action and pressed for additional information. Timothy M. Healy (Nationalist), declared that the Irish vote in American had driven the British Government into a humiliating alliance with Germany, and warned the Government that it was in a perilous position owing to the state of political feeling in the United States. Replying to questions Premier Balfour said that he was sending warships to Venezuelan waters, but that there was no agreement between Italy and Great Britain, as there was between Great Britain and Germany. Referring to the Anglo-German fleets on the Venezuelan coast, the Premier said there was no question of seniority, as the two fleets were acting along different parts of the coast, and independently of each other. Mr. Schwann's motion was rejected without a division.

Proposal to Arbitrate. A proposition arrived here yesterday to submit the points in difference to arbitration. This came in the form of a proposal through the United States Government to submit the claims of British and German subjects to arbitration, which Lord Lansdowne announced later in the day in the House of Lords "was under consideration by the British Government."

It was learned last evening that the proposals now before the British Government are the original proposals forwarded by Minister Bowen, but which now have received strong support from the United States Government.

Venezuela's Reply.

Lord Lansdowne said the Government had received from Minister Haggard a cabled summary of what purports to be Venezuela's reply to the British ultimatum. Therein Venezuela complains that no reparation was offered by Great Britain for the landing of the marines, or for the conduct of the British authorities in Trinidad. This despatch closed by saying Venezuela represented that as her treasury was exhausted, it was impossible for the Government to meet its debts for the moment, but directly peace was declared it would not be necessary to remind the Venezuelan Government of its obligations.

Other Tiny States Arise.

New York, Dec. 16.—The Herald correspondent in Caracas says he has learned on reliable authority that the Government of Argentina, in a despatch from Buenos Ayres, has instructed its consular representative to report to Buenos Ayres what appears to be the attitude of the United States, and what view that Government is likely to take of its obligations under the Monroe Doctrine, in the face of the aggressive action of Great Britain and Germany. Should the United States not act, Argentina, fearing the autonomy of all Southern American States, is jeopardized, is prepared to aid Venezuela.

U.S. Will Not Be Involved.

Washington, Sept. 16.—The South and Central American diplomatic representatives here are in a state of anxiety that finds expression in frequent calls at the State Department for information. No less than six Ministers were among Secretary Hay's visitors yesterday. Among them Senators and Representatives who have discussed the Venezuelan matter with President Roosevelt, the situation is regarded as serious, but it is not generally believed to be likely that the United States will become involved in the controversy.

Daily Grows Worse.

Antwerp, Dec. 16.—A firm here, which trades with Venezuela, has received a despatch from Caracas, saying that President Castro's position is growing daily more difficult. A new revolution seems imminent. Gen. Matos refuses to co-operate with President Castro against the allies.

British Flag Flies.

London, Dec. 16.—The Willemstad, Curacao correspondent of The Daily Mail says the British flag is now flying at Willemstad, in Puerto Cabello, and that President Castro has granted amnesty to "El Mocho" Hernandez, Parados and other revolutionary leaders.

RELEASED FROM PRISON.

Citizens Showed Compassion on Men Who Committed Crime. Orangeville, Dec. 16.—David Ballard, James Ballard, Alonzo Smith, William Reid and James E. Corbett, the Methuen men, sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in May, 1897, for arson, have been released on ticket-of-leave, issued by the Governor-General-in-Council. The two Ballards and Smith were sentenced to 12 years' each by Mr. Justice Ferguson, and Corbett and Reid to 3 years. Their release was the result of a petition presented last spring by the Post, and taken up pretty generally by the citizens, it being felt that the men had suffered sufficiently for their crime.

Action Against a Clergyman.

Hamilton, Dec. 16.—Annie Hore, formerly of Hamilton, but now a resident in Toronto, has entered an action against Rev. Thomas Geoghegan of Hamilton for \$10,000 for alleged breach of promise. The case between these parties is an old one. The plaintiff formerly laid a charge against the pastor, and it was tried before the church court, resulting in acquittal. Rev. Mr. Geoghegan is pastor of St. Peter's Church in Hamilton.

Killed by a Tree.

London, Dec. 11.—Archibald Cockburn, aged 20 years, son of Mr. George Cockburn, of London Township, while engaged chopping wood in the bush, was struck by a falling tree and pinned to the ground. He was released as quickly as possible, but the young man was quite dead. Death had been instantaneous.

As to the Strike-Breaker.

New York, Dec. 11.—At the Civic Federation yesterday, Prof. J. W. Jencks, professor of political economy at Cornell University, in his address said: "Legally the strike-breaker is right; he may work for whoever he will; morally he may be right or he may be wrong."

First Disorder of Strike.

Paris, Dec. 11.—Admiral Rouvier telegraphed from Versailles that the strikers had refused to accept the Government's proposition for arbitration. A slight conflict between gendarmes and strikers has occurred at Havre. This is the first disorder during the strike.

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MAIL CARRIERS DROWNED. They Went Through the Ice at Taku Arm and Took the Yukon Mail Bags With Them.

The German Tariff Bill passed its second reading Thursday by 184 to 186 votes. John McKeever, who was charged with the murder of John Kenist, the anti-Ritualistic crusader, by throwing a chisel, has been acquitted at London.

A heavy storm has caused losses throughout the Crimea. Electric lighting plants, telegraph and telephone wires at Odessa and Sebastopol were crippled. A despatch from Atlin says that two mail carriers were drowned by falling through the ice at Taku Arm. The mail bags went with them. One was named Abbey.

Mr. Wadsworth (New York) has reported to the Committee on Agriculture, a bill to appropriate \$1,000,000 to eradicate the foot and mouth disease in New England. Startling increase in suicides in the Hungarian army has aroused the authorities to an investigation. Six recruits belonging to a single regiment have committed suicide in two months.

Willie Hinger, a five-year-old boy, who mysteriously disappeared last Sunday, was found lying on the porch of a house in the eastern suburbs of Auburn, N. Y., dead from exposure. The Buffalo and Oil City Express on the Allegheny Valley road was wrecked Thursday night near Brilliant, Pa., station. Three trainmen are reported fatally hurt and 25 passengers injured, more or less seriously.

Fred Bauer, an employee of the Toronto Railway Company, is in a critical condition at the Emergency Hospital from injuries received by falling from a pole, a distance of about 20 feet, about 4.30 Thursday afternoon. Hamilton City Council special committee passed this motion on Thursday: That this committee recommend the Council to memorialize the Government to obtain control of all trunk telephone lines throughout the Dominion of Canada, and to press upon them the necessity of acting upon these lines at the ensuing session.

Dr. Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, professor of mineral chemistry in the Columbia University and chief chemist of the United States geological survey, has been invited by the Philosophical Society of Manchester, England, to deliver the Wilde lecture on the atomic theory, upon the 100th anniversary of the propounding of this theory at Manchester by John Dalton.

Six Men Killed. Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 18.—Six men were reported killed in a Northern Pacific Railroad wreck at Northley, ten miles from here.

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Men's and Boys' Reefers and Ulsters at close prices. We are offering special value in heavy suits, single and double breasted. TAILORING DEPARTMENT. This branch of the store is still alive, and I would advise anyone wanting a suit or overcoat to leave their order at once, as the orders are coming in freely. Men's Made-to-order Overcoats of heavy frieze, made in any style desired, at \$38. Men's Tweed Suits to order, regular \$16.00 for \$12.00.

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Orders are coming in freely for Furs which we procure according to directions, and have been very fortunate, for in nearly every case our customers have been well served with the choice. J. M. Pascoe has made from the different wholesalers. We have a large number of fur coats, also capes, ruffs, gantlets, etc., not a few, and all the orders are coming in. Our prices are certainly inducing the people to come. This way, we are satisfied to take a very small margin on these goods when we have them sold before purchasing, and having no risk to run in holding them over.

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Our display of toys, games, fancy goods, etc., is well assorted, and a nice range to choose from. Fowl of all kinds wanted, at highest market prices.

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The Bravest One. The bravest one is not the one who stands. Voicing his valor from the house-top high; But rather him who hides a broken heart Beneath a smile. Could you do this? —Edwin Carlisle Litsey in December National.