

HOLLAND SEIZES VENEZUELAN SHIP

Gelderland Captures the Alix Off Puerto Cabello. Meeting With Absolutely No Resistance.

HER CREW WAS PUT ASHORE.

Seizure in Accordance With Plans of The Netherlands to Make Demonstration—Others May Follow.

Willemstad, Curacao, Dec. 13.—The Dutch cruiser Gelderland came into this port this morning, towing the Venezuelan coast guard ship Alix, with the Dutch flag flying and a Dutch crew on board. The Gelderland captured the Alix off Puerto Cabello on Saturday. At that time the Alix was lying close in shore, and notwithstanding the threat which the Venezuelan government had made to fire upon any of the Dutch warships committing a hostile act, the Gelderland steamed at full speed toward the guardship and sent an officer and guard in a launch to seize her. They did not without resistance, and no shots came from the Alix. The crew of the Alix was put ashore and the Dutch officers and marines remained on board, the Gelderland finally taking the Alix in tow and steaming away with her prize.

HOLLAND IN EARNEST.

The seizure of the Alix was in accordance with the plans of the Holland government when it was decided to send to three Dutch warships, now in these waters, to make a demonstration off the coast of Venezuela and to capture any Venezuelan ships of war or guard vessel that they might meet. The arrival of the Gelderland at Willemstad this morning was greeted with unbounded enthusiasm by those who noticed the cruiser's approach, and soon the entire population was down to the water's edge to welcome the return of the Gelderland, towing the first of the enemy's ships, as though from a great conquest.

Naturally, the people of Curacao, who have long been clamoring for activity on the part of the Dutch government, are greatly rejoiced over this evidence that Holland has at last begun to take measures against Venezuela, but the governor of Curacao discussed the incident as follows:

"The capture by our warships of coastguard and war vessels is not to be considered an unfriendly act against the Venezuelans."

"It is merely a reprisal against Castro's government, which refuses to give satisfaction for its unfriendly acts toward Holland. The capture of these vessels will make it impossible for the Venezuelan government to carry troops or ammunition to and from various ports."

"A communication to this effect has been forwarded by the Dutch government to the German minister at Caracas."

It is learned from the officers of the Gelderland that the battleship Jacob Van Heemskerck and the cruiser Friesland are now off La Guayra, and that further captures may be expected at any time. These two vessels left here on Friday, cleared for action, and it was believed at that time that the intention was to make a forcible demonstration at La Guayra. The opinion is held here that the Venezuelan government, in the absence of President Castro, will not go so far as to fire upon the Dutch warships, which, in view of the fact that Venezuela is practically without a navy, would be practically without a navy, would be practically without a navy.

The situation between Venezuela and the Netherlands has been strained for some months. The trouble arose indirectly from the capture of the battleship M. De Ruyter, the diplomatic representative of Holland, but it had already been rendered acute by the course of Venezuela in issuing a decree on May 14 last that practically killed the commerce of Curacao.

President Castro refused to withdraw this decree, notwithstanding the fact that Holland issued an ultimatum that she would take retaliatory action, unless he took prompt cognizance of her demands.

Castro suggested that Holland send a representative to Caracas to confer with him on this subject, but this the Netherlands government declined to do. Without waiting, however, to ascertain whether or not this suggestion would be adopted, Castro sailed for Europe.

Other incidents that have added to the ill-feeling have been the stoppage of Dutch sailing vessels at sea by the authorities of Venezuela and the storming of the Venezuelan consulate at Willemstad by a mob.

Venezuela has made preparations to resist any act of hostility.

The forts at La Guayra, Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo have been reinforced with men and munitions, but until Saturday no untoward act occurred, which would give Venezuela an opportunity to answer force with force. More than a week ago the three Dutch warships, and Jacob Van Heemskerck, the Friesland, and the battleship M. De Ruyter, which was formerly the steam yacht Atlanta, are hardly worthy of mention. They are nothing more than armed tugs. There is one 12-pound gun on the Restaurador, but outside of this there is not a gun in the fleet bigger than a 6-pounder.

The forts, however, mount some modern 6-inch Krupp guns.

WASHINGTON INTERESTED.

Washington, Dec. 13.—While no advisers, officials or unofficially have reached the state department confirming the Associated Press dispatches from Willemstad regarding the seizure of a Venezuelan coast guard ship by the Dutch cruiser Gelderland, the news was received with interest and with little surprise in diplomatic circles here.

Although Holland has had three or four war vessels at Curacao or thereabouts for some time past, no hostile act had previously occurred and there has been much speculation as to Holland's purpose. Great interest attaches to the Netherlands government's next move, in which it apparently intends to force matters to an issue. For some time there was talk of a blockade, but such action might cause Holland to come in conflict with Germany, England and other powers for the claims against Venezuela, the payments of which are pending.

The state department's attitude has been to let the Venezuelan disturbances work themselves out gradually, observing strict neutrality there unless the commerce or other interests of this country are interfered with.

Rheumatism Caused By Dyspepsia

So Claim Many Eminent Doctors Upon Recent Scientific Investigation.

A large school of physicians which is constantly increasing, claims that the eating of too much animal foods creates an over supply of proteids, which are composed of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, and that when such proteids are perfectly digested and go into the blood they create vast quantities of nitrogen which the oxygen from the lungs cannot neutralize and hence results, uric acid and rheumatism and scores of other diseases.

These proteids do not permit the assimilation processes to take place properly and poisoning results all through the blood.

However, if such proteids are perfectly digested they form a most valuable part of our food and are absolutely necessary to life.

The fault then rests with the stomach and the digestive apparatus.

Hence it is claimed by these latter day authorities that rheumatism arises in the stomach or through the stomach and not in the kidneys, as some medical authorities teach.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets cure dyspepsia, reduce proteids to their natural condition best taken up by the system, give strength to the blood, rest the stomach and invigorate and renew the gastric fluids, purify the blood and the little digesters, and every drugist sells digestive organs in general.

Forty thousand physicians use these tablets, 50c per box or send us your name and the number of the bottle and we will send you a trial package by mail free. Address, F. A. Stuart Co., 150 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, Mich.

NEW HAND GRENADE.

Most Deadly One Ever Invented to be Tested in Manila.

New York, Dec. 14.—Tests are soon to be made by the United States army at Manila of what is declared to be the most deadly hand grenade ever invented. Lieut. W. S. Mapes of Nebraska, member of the Twenty-third Infantry, is the inventor. The instrument discharges no less than 40 bullets, thus making the soldier armed with one a terror to the enemy. The grenade looks very much like a stick of dynamite and is nine inches long. Guncotton is packed in a castron pipe for one-third of the length and a small can contains the 40 bullets. The whole contrivance is light and can be carried with safety, it is said. When it explodes, however, the bullets are distributed so near the surface of the ground that the men even lying down can be reached.

Lieut. Mapes is now in Manila with his regiment and will personally take part in the experiments with his invention.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Members of Atlantic Fleet Show Wonderful Ignorance of It.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Letters reaching the fleet indicate a woeful lack of knowledge of anything approaching a national anthem.

In most places where the fleet was received with so much cordiality, the natives were prompt and vigorous in the delivery of an appropriate air, and such an incident was usually followed by an attempt to render "The Star Spangled Banner." With the result, as one correspondent has described it, that the singers were rarely able to proceed with the song for more than three lines. The repeated failures finally led to combined efforts to rehearse for the rendition of the American anthem, but without much success.

ERIE SHOWS BIG GAINS.

New York Dec. 9.—The statement of the Erie road for the month of October is one of the best issued by any of the eastern trunk lines for many a month. It shows an increase in gross receipts of \$143,274, which of itself amounts to only 3 per cent, but we understand that the freight business alone increased about 9 per cent.

Most important of all, however, the net earnings increased \$511,283, or practically 20 per cent.

For the first four months of the present fiscal year the Erie has earned approximately \$5,000,000 net after operating expenses and taxes, this figure being an increase of \$351,775 over the figure of 1907.

The Erie road is the first of the large eastern trunk lines to show an increase in its net earnings in the fiscal year 1908-9 to date, and the first, also to show a gain in monthly gross.

To this figure should be added a proportionate part of a year's "other income." "Other income" of the Erie last year amounted to \$2,750,467, or approximately \$230,000 a month.

Therefore, it is evident in the first four months of the year, the Erie earned a surplus applicable to fixed charges of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

The fixed charges pro rated on this four months period amount to \$4,400,000, so that the Erie, up to Nov. 1, has earned its entire fixed charges for four months of the year, with the balance for the stock for \$1,500,000.

This is earning a surplus at the rate of about \$6,500,000 a year over fixed charges. It is not probable that this will be maintained, but at any rate it shows the large underlying earning power of the Erie.

The surplus earnings over the fixed charges for the first four months, amounting to \$1,500,000, is sufficient of itself to pay more than 3 per cent of the first preferred stock for an entire year.

This situation in the earnings of the Erie is not understood in Wall Street or in financial circles. Nobody has been supposing for a minute that the Erie had been earning its fixed charges. But the fact remains that in four months of the year it has earned its fixed charges with \$1,500,000 to spare.

A strange part of it is that this showing has been made with a comparatively small reduction in maintenance.

The detailed figures for the Erie system are not at hand, we have details for practically 95 per cent of the entire system.

These show that in four months of the year the Erie's earnings decreased \$1,525,543, also that maintenance of way decreased \$635,078, and maintenance of equipment decreased \$317,890. These are very small decreases inasmuch as the maintenance of the Erie showed an increase last year over the previous year of more than \$3,000,000, notwithstanding that the Erie suffered severely from the panic, and its gross earnings underwent a large decline.

In the first four months of this year the traffic, transportation and general expenses declined \$797,220. This is the vital and healthful change in the operating figures of the Erie.

The operating staff of the Erie are entitled to much credit for the showing which they are making in the present fiscal year. Few will question the statement that the large increases in Erie freight business in October is owing in considerable part to the influence of E. H. Harriman. If the present situation is maintained Mr. Harriman's action in coming to the relief of the Erie after its old friends left it out in the cold will receive vindication sooner than was first supposed.—Wall Street Journal.

CASTRO TALKS, BUT GUARDEDLY

Anxious to Settle Venezuela's Troubles With France and Has Made First Steps.

LEAVES PARIS FOR COLOGNE

There Physicians Will Hold Consultation—If Operation Necessary, Will Will be Performed in Berlin.

Paris, Dec. 13.—President Castro of Venezuela and his party left here today for Cologne, where a consultation of physicians will be held to determine upon the advisability of an operation on the president. If an operation is found necessary Dr. Israel probably will perform it at Berlin.

Castro kept himself closely confined to his hotel here, refusing to give out any statement to newspaper men, except through some members of his suite. On the train today, however, he accorded an interview to a representative of the Temps, saying that as he was leaving France he felt at liberty to receive a journalist. The interview, while guarded, fully confirms the representations made by Castro at Santander to the effect that he wanted to settle Venezuela's diplomatic differences and so far as France is concerned had already made the first steps in that direction. He said, however, that everything for the moment must be subordinated to the restoration of his health.

While avoiding a direct question as to what he expected to do toward settling Venezuela's foreign quarrels, he made it clear that the resumption of diplomatic relations with France depends entirely upon the settlement of the French Cable company controversy.

"It is incontestable," he said, "that the French Cable company was against my government in the Matos revolution."

"But that did not justify the expulsion of M. Taigny, the charge d'affaires," said the interviewer.

"In this, as in other differences with the powers," replied President Castro, "Venezuela is only defended herself."

"But there is also the matter of the French subjects at Carupabo," continued the interviewer.

"I took occasion when I touched there," the president said, "to authorize their return. That is sufficient evidence of my desire for reconciliation."

"And the payment of the diplomatic debt under the Hague award?" "The payment has not ceased," remarked Castro. "In default of a French representative at Caracas, the

monthly payments have been deposited with the State bank of Venezuela."

Asked why he had refused to allow the Brazilian legation to act for France, President Castro replied:

"Because Brazil has charge of the interests of the United States and in the interest of the good relations and solidarity of the American republic it was deemed inadvisable to permit a neighboring republic to look after the affairs of a European power."

President Castro asserted that Venezuela desired peace and harmony with France and the other powers, but declared so long condition was dependent upon others as well as Venezuela.

SNANATIVE SHAVING—CUTICURA

Soap makes shaving a pleasure to men with tender, easily irritated skins.

A NIGHT RIDER'S VIEW OF THE NIGHT RIDERS' CASE

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 13.—Clad in rough homespun and always with the inevitable long-barreled rifle or big pistol in view, the denizens of the Reelfoot lake district assembled in this quaint little town today for the opening scene of the night rider trials. They are friends and relatives of the men held under guard awaiting trial for the murder of Capt. Quentin Rankin. They feel keenly this trouble and they believe that they are being persecuted. Old Tom Johnson, who, the State says, was the first leader of the band, but who was deposed because of his immense stature and mutilated hand made him easy to identify, expressed the belief of all when he says:

"It's like this here, stranger, God. He put them red hills up here. An' He put some of us poor folks that He did not have room for nowah else up there too. An' then He saw that we couldn't make a livin' farmin', so He ordered an earthquake, an' the earthquake left a big hole. Next He filled the hole with wath' an' put fish in it. Then He knew we could make a livin' between farmin' an' fishin'. But along comes these rich men who don't have to make no livin', an' they tell us that we must not fish in the lake any more, 'cause they own the lake an' the fish God put theah for us. It jus' naturally ain't right, stranger, it ain't no justice."

This presents the night riders' views.

ROBBED, STABBED AND LEFT FOR DEAD

Helena, Mont., Dec. 13.—Domitor Abramoff, an Austrian, was robbed of \$203.50 this afternoon at 4 o'clock by two countrymen and afterwards stabbed about the head, knocked down, severely pummeled and left for dead. He was taken to St. Peter's hospital, where his wounds were dressed. His

TEA

Buy tea by the ounce until you get Schilling's Best; it makes no difference then.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like it; we pay him.

ribs were broken and the cuts about his head were painful, but he was not as badly injured as would be supposed, considering the treatment he received. He was taken from the hospital to the police station, where he gave a good description of the men who robbed and mistreated him and the police have notified the authorities of surrounding cities to be on the watch for them.

WESTERN PACIFIC TUNNEL EXPLOSION

Shafter, Nev., Dec. 13.—The explosion of dynamite in the Western Pacific tunnel near this station last Friday, in which six workmen were killed or injured, was caused by the pick of one of the men striking a hole in which a heavy blast had been placed but which had not been fired and was overlooked. The laborer whose pick set off the charge was blown to pieces and another workman died on the way to the hospital at Salt Lake City. Two men were made totally blind, one lost one eye, one had both arms blown off and another lost one arm. Of the six workmen, all but one were Greeks.

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CHRISTMAS

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One More \$450.00 LUDWIG PIANO

TO BE GIVEN AWAY AS A SPECIAL PRIZE

TO THE CONTESTANT POLLING THE MOST VOTES ISSUED BETWEEN DEC. 5 AND DEC. 19, 1908.

A beautiful \$450.00 Ludwig Piano is offered as a special prize to the contestant turning in the greatest number of votes issued between Dec. 5 and Dec. 19, 1908. No votes issued previous to Dec. 5 will be counted in making our decision as to the winner of this special prize.

Some contestants have been holding votes ever since the contest opened, while others have voted all the votes they had, and it would not be fair to offer this special prize to the contestant turning in the greatest number of votes unless we made the provision that it must be votes issued between Dec. 5 and Dec. 19 on new business, as it would give some of the contestants an unfair advantage over others. This is our reason for making the above rule.

All votes issued between these dates and voted up to 10 p. m., December 19 will be counted by a small known judges in making a decision.

FREE

New Contestants Stand Just As Good a Chance of Earning this \$450 Prize as Old Contestants.

It does not make any difference whether you are in the contest or not—if you only have 2,000 votes, or even if you have not entered the contest, you stand just as good a show of winning a prize as somebody who already has 100,000 or more votes, because this special prize is to be given to the contestant polling the greatest number of votes which may be issued between Dec. 5 and Dec. 19.

If you start in as a new contestant and can get more votes during these two weeks and can make a greater showing than any one of the old contestants, you will be the winner of the piano. Now, this means that if you earn 150,000 votes and one of the old contestants makes an increase of only 100,000 votes, you would be the winner, although the old contestant might have a total of 250,000 votes.

The prize is to be given simply on the increase and not on the total, and remember that all votes counted in the contest for this special prize must be new votes issued between Dec. 5 and Dec. 19.

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How to SECURE VOTES

Buy that piano now and enter the contest.

Don't forget that every one purchasing a piano from us during this contest sale is entitled to from 15,000 to 1,500,000 votes, depending on the price of the piano and the terms of payment. Furthermore, if you buy your piano from us, you are sure of a valuable prize when the contest closes.

All cash purchases or cash payments of \$1.00 or more, either by mail or at our store, entitles you to votes. Do not fail to ask for them when you make your payment, and then do not fail to vote.

FREE

Pay up your account in full and get double votes for every dollar.

ESTELLA NEILSON.

And Now We Offer One More \$450.00 LUDWIG PIANO As a Special Prize For Only Two Weeks Work.

From now until the close of the contest, every customer owing us a balance on their piano will get double votes on every dollar, provided they pay the entire balance. We want to clean up the piano accounts, if possible, before the contest closes, and to make it an object to you to pay up your entire balance we will consider the payment the same as new business, provided you settle the entire account. Partial payments on accounts will be considered old business, same as heretofore, \$101.00 balance would entitle you to 101,000 votes, instead of 50,500, as heretofore, and \$201.00 balance would entitle you to 201,000 votes, instead of 100,500, as heretofore. Besides these votes will count on the special prize, to be given to the one making the greatest increase in votes cast before Dec. 19.

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