

started from King Fisher the next station, in pursuit of the bandits.

**HENNESY, Oklahoma, April 4.**—Two robbers boarded the engine as the Rock Island train No. 1 was leaving Dover at 11:30 last night and covering the engineer and fireman, commanded them to stop about 200 yards from the water tank. The engineer, a little excited, went about a fourth of a mile before stopping. One robber fired at him, just missing him, and the ball going through the cab window. Conductor James Mack, not having heard the shot, started to find out what was wrong and was covered as he approached the engine and was told to climb on the engine. They robbed him and were then joined by others who had come up to the train. Demand was made for Express Messenger Jones to open his door. This was refused and a fusillade followed in which the messenger was wounded in the wrist. He attempted to escape from the opposite side of the car, but was captured by a guard on that side and made to crawl under the train. An attempt was then made to open the safe, but nothing could be done. Then the robbers proceeded to rob the passengers. When the train arrived at Kingfisher, Sheriff Burchett and United States Marshal Madsen, of El Reno, were notified and carried to the scene of the holdup by a special train. They found the trail about four miles west of Dover, where Cimarron river had been crossed, and are still following it. The robbers are supposed to be led by Dick Yeager, the outlaw who has headquarters in Cheyenne county. If the posse comes up with the robbers a fight will probably occur.

**CALCUTTA, April 4.**—A dispatch from Malakand Pass, via Simla, says the operations of the British troops against Umra Khan, of Jadooe, the invader of Chitral, in the pass itself were commenced by guides sent to clear the hills on the left. Maxim rapid fire guns were placed to the front whenever they got within range of the enemy, estimated to number 12,000. The latter at first made but feeble resistance, but when the head of the pass was reached the action became general. The Gordon Highlanders and Scottish Borders stormed the defenses composed of Swat Mullaha and Umra Khan's supporters. The British troops advanced with spirit in spite of the fact that the roadway over the pass was cut away in many places and sangars, or stone breastworks, were constructed at various points, which had to be carried at the point of the bayonet. Fifty of the British force were wounded, including three officers severely, and four slightly injured. Only three British soldiers were killed. The enemy lost 500 killed and wounded. The first brigade is expected to reach Swat river tonight.

**WASHINGTON, April 4.**—It is stated by persons in a position to speak with authority that as soon as Venezuela is convinced that Great Britain has declined to arbitrate or settle the boundary dispute as suggested by the United States through Ambassador Bayard, the southern republic will regretfully but resolutely resort to what she regards as her only course—a resort to force. It is declared that her people are ready to see their homes and their cities desolated and laid in

ashes rather than submit to what they regard as national dishonor. It is said that the contention with Great Britain is not so much one of territory as of sentiment. So firmly impressed have the people become with this that the opinion is expressed that they would rather see the country go out of existence than pass into the practical control of foreign hands.

A strong feeling exists in the Venezuelan government that the United States will not stand idly by if a resort to force is made. It is understood that the position of Great Britain in declining the suggestion of the United States for the settlement of the trouble with Venezuela is substantially as follows:

First—Great Britain takes the position that the question of arbitration was once before proposed by Venezuela. At that time the foreign office gave the subject most careful attention, and submitted a reply embodying a proposition to arbitrate certain definite subjects of controversy. To this proposition, Venezuela has never made a reply either accepting or rejecting the proposed basis of arbitration. Under the circumstances it is not desirable to proceed to a second proposal of arbitration when the first remains unanswered.

Second—In any event there are certain portions of that territory to which Venezuela lays claims, which under no circumstances will be made the subject of arbitration as they are recognized portions of the British domain and are not therefore subjects on which the action of arbitrators could be invoked.

**HAVANA, April 4.**—At daybreak this morning a battalion of Spanish troops marched out from the fortress of Oobana, which lies westward on the hills above Moro Castle. They were led to the railway from which trains travel south across the island to Batubanno. It is at that port that the government troops are being forwarded to the eastern district of Cuba; and when the battalion en route today shall have reached Santiago de Cuba, all troops newly arrived from Spain will have been mobilized at that point.

At Rax, the palace of the governor-general, the writer today was informed that when all the troops that are now expected to come from Spain shall have arrived, there will be available against the rebellion about 32,000 men. This number covers troops already arrived here, the standing army of Cuba and all volunteers and guerrillas. The last named are not the guerrillas familiar in the states, but are separate companies enlisted for a definite time and purpose.

An interesting bit of news came from Santiago, de Cuba. A correspondent waiting March 25th states that he has been looking into the Alliance affair and he makes the statement that the Alliance was hailed, displayed the American flag, and not that of England, as reported by the commander of the Conde Da Veasidito.

Third—The subject matter is one between Great Britain and Venezuela so that the good offices of the United States are not regarded as essential to a settlement, as it is not understood that the United States has assumed a protectorate over Venezuela, or that her interests are any other than that of a friendly government.

**NEW ORLEANS, April 5.**—About 2 o'clock this morning an explosion from some unknown cause occurred at the corner of Decatur and Ursuline streets in a two-story brick building containing two stores on the ground floor. One of these was occupied by Emile Boulet as a drinking saloon; the other by Charles Salathe as a grocery and ship chandlery. The building was near the lower end of the French market, separated from it by a narrow street. Little tongues of flames began shooting up from the debris, and by this time the on-lookers had recovered from the shock and set about to think of some means of rescue for the unfortunates, whom they knew were imprisoned in that smoking mass of brick and timbers. An alarm of fire was sounded and the firemen did effective work in saving the adjoining buildings.

The walls and debris came down with a crash and immediately the air was full of smoke and dust blown everywhere from the grocery store. Immediately people rushed to the place of explosion from every direction.

When the firemen reached the scene they found the flames were creeping out from all quarters under the debris. Water was pumped on the ruins and a large force of men started to work to clear away the debris over where it was supposed the bodies lay.

**ZANESVILLE, Ohio, April 5.**—Four persons were killed outright and the fifth fatally injured in a wreck on the Bellaires, Zanesville and Cincinnati narrow gauge at a trestle five miles west of Summerfield this morning. A coach jumped the track as the train was approaching the trestle. The engine also left the rails, carrying down five bents of the trestle to the ravine below.

**ALTON, Ill., April 5.**—A fearful wreck occurred this morning at Wood River bridge on the Chicago and Alton Cut-off, about half a mile north of East Alton, Ills. A long, heavy freight train was coming down grade, when the middle of the train bulked out and fifteen cars were piled on top of each other. Four men were killed outright, and two fatally injured. They are supposed to be tramps stealing a ride.

**WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5.**—The U. S. steamship Marblehead, now at Gibraltar, was cabled yesterday by Secretary Herbert to proceed with dispatch to Beyrout, Syria. The commander-in-chief of the European station, who will sail immediately on the San Francisco, now at Palermo, for Smyrna, was instructed to order the vessels at his command, also to visit Alexandria and confer with the U. S. consuls and resident American citizens, and if it is found that there are good grounds for the apprehensions expressed in these quarters concerning the probable massacre of Christians intimate to the responsible authorities that this government will afford full protection to American citizens living peaceably in that part of the world under its treaty guarantees.

**NEW ORLEANS, April 5.**—An explosion occurred at corner of Decatur and Ursuline streets this morning about 2 o'clock. The ship chandler's store of Charles J. Salathe and the adjoining saloon, the Fisherman's Exchange,