Ultimatum Delivered

Great Britain and Germany Present Their Demands to Venezuela.

Premier Balfour Makes the Announcement in House of Commons.

And Says That South American Republic Disregarded Efforts at Settlement

London, Dec. 8.—Great Britain and Germany have presented ultimatums to Venezuela, which will be followed up by the seizure of the customs unless a satisfactory settlement is forthcoming within a brief period. The ultimatums have a time limit, but the exact date cannot be ascertained here. The Foreign office states, with regard to the time limit:

"It is a reasonable time in which Venezuela can satisfy the injured governments. Both notes are practically identical, but the amounts of claims differ. The notes merely reiterate the continued disregard by the Venezuelan government of all our representations, specified in our claims, and demand immediate action on the part of President Castro's government in connection therewith." The British government's case is practically identical with the statements made in previous despatches from London, where it was announced the present action was contemplated.

The Foreign office is hourly awaiting important despatches from Caracas, but up to a late hour tonight none had reached there. While the government is rather worried at the inability to get answers from Minister Haggard, they are in no way seriously alarmed, especially as inquiries have revealed the fact that the Venezuelan representatives are in a similar situation. The Foreign office says: There is not the slightest desire to coerce Venezuelan, and if any answer had been made to our repeated demands and protests no such action as now taken would have been needed. It was the persistent and insulting disregard to all representations which compelled us to move. It is now too late in the day for anything but diplomatic arrangements to be accepted satisfaction for our injuries.

When the fleets have assembled there is scarcely time to deal with bankers and a financial settlement should have been suggested long ago, and would have been welcomed by both Germany and ourselves. However, any bona fide proposition will receive careful attention. Reconstruction in commercial finance is always better than liquidation, and if the reconstruction of the Venezuelan finances can be accomplished to the satisfaction of our diplomatic claims and individual losses, both Germany and Great Britain will have achieved their ends."

Caracas, Dec. 8—The British minister, A. H. D. Haggard and the German charge d'affaires, Von Pilgrim Baltazzi left Caracas at 3 o'clock for Laguera, where Minister Haggard went on board the British cruiser Retribution, and Baron Von Pilgrim Baltazzi boarded the German cruiser Vinetaux. Both the British and the German legations have been closed.

Berlin, Dec 8.—The German-British ultimatum to Venezuela was presented at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon at Caracas.

The ultimatums are identical in spirit, but not in form. Each embodies the respective claims of the two countries, and is consequently different.

A statement will be made tomorrow in the Reichstag. The Bundesrath already has been informed that the Foreign office is unwilling to disclose the text of Germany's ultimatum, as such a step would be against all precedents and because it also would be discourteous to Venezuela to publish the text before giving that country an opportunity to reply. Neither is an intimation given as to what forcible action will follow, on the ground that this would be disclosing military secrets. The navigation offices confirm the reports that the German flagship Vintia arrived at La Guayraz, November 30, that the Falke reached there December 1, and that the Gazelle and Panther anchored off that port at the end of last week. Each of these warships is equipped with landing material and field guns.

London, Dec. 8.—Premier Balfour announced in the House of Commons today that an ultimatum had been sent to Venezuela and that in the event of a satisfactory reply not being received the British and German governments will take measures to enforce their claims against that country.

When questioned on the Venezuelan situation by Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, the Liberal leader, Premier Balfour said:

"For the past two years we have had grave cause for complaint on various occasions of unjustifiable interference by the Venezuelan government with the liberty and property of British subjects. No efforts have been spared by the British government to obtain an amicable settlement of these cases, but in none of them satisfactory explanations have been forthcoming. Latterly the representations of the British minister have been practically unnoticed. There are also cases in which British subjects and companies have large claims.

"We have been a claimant in conjunction with the German government, which also has large claims against Venezuela. A final communication has been made to the Venezuelan government by the British minister and the German charge d'affaires. If no satisfactory reply is received the governments have decided to take such measures as may be necessary to enforce there claims."

Replying to a supplementary question, Mr. Balfour said he understood the communication to Venezuela was neither joint nor identical.

Paris, Dec. 8.—Several newspapers here are urging the French government to send warships to participate in the naval demonstration against Venezuela pointing out the extent of the French interests in that country. But it is announced at the Foreign office the government will adhere to its purpose to hold aloof from the movement as the protocol signed by France and Venezuela assures a satisfactory settlement of the French claims.

Washington, Dec. 7.—In Venezuela's yellow book for 1901, a copy of which has been received in Washington recently from the foreign office at Caracas are the exchanges between the London and Caracas governments last year in regard to the ownership of Patos Island which has been in dispute between the two countries for many years. Significance attaches to this correspondence in view of the approaching crisis between Venezuela and Great Britain, as it is not improbable that in the settlement of the claims of British and German citizens against Venezuela, the Patos dispute will also be involved. Re-opening the Patos question was caused by the action of the Venezuelan gunboat Augusto, in January, 1901, in capturing certain British subjects on the island. When the Caracas authorities were called to account by the London Foreign Office, the former replied by renewing their long-standing claim to Patos, and a diplomatic controversy extending throughout the year was the result.

Venezuela bases her claim to the island on its proximity to the coast of Guiria, from which it is distant only three miles, claiming that it is a tenet of international law that a country commands water within a marine league of its coast; that the international law institute has defined the territorial sea as six miles, whereas the Island of Patos is more than ten miles from Trinidad, the nearest British possession; further, that the treaty of March, 1845, "explicitly confirms the title of Venezuela over all the islands near her coast which were under dominion of Spain in the initiative period of Venezuelan independence."

In support of this contention, the Venezuelan authorities produce a letter from the royal Spanish minister of state in 1873, in which he denies that royal sanction ever was given to the concession alleged to have been made to the Ayuntanmiento of Trinidad by the governor of Patos, Huevos and Monos. Great Britain, through her charge d'affaires at Caracas, and later through her minister, advanced the contention that when she conquered the Island of Trinidad in 1797, sovereignty over Patos also was obtained, and so recognized by the Madrid government; that Patos has remained in the peaceful possession of Great Britain for more than a century, during seventy years of which time Venezuela advanced no counter claim, and that the official map of Codazzi colors the Island of Patos the same as Trinidad, indicating that both belong to the same country.

To this last contention Venezuela replied by stating that the map of Codazzi was so old as to make it impossible to distinguish the various colors, and produced other maps by the same authority, which place Patos as belonging to Venezuela.

Being unable to agree on even the minor points of the controversy the British minister, near the close of the last year, informed the Venezuelan foreign office that he would make no further representations in the matter, as there was nothing to be gained in continuing the correspondence.

It is understood that President Castro will ask that the question be settled by arbitration, a proposition to which the British government will hardly accede, in view of its contention that the ownership of Patos is so clearly British as not to furnish a suitable subject for arbitration.

Successor to Earl of Minto

Lord Milner Spoken of as Probably Next Governor General.

Three Young People Killed at Grimsby on Returning From Church.

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—(Special)—Although no official information on the subject is forthcoming, it is understood as not improbable that Lord Milner will succeed Lord Minto as governor-general of Canada. Lord Jersey's name is also mentioned.

Today was a holiday in the public departments, being the festival of the Immaculate Conception.

Grimsby, Dec. 8.—(Special)—Miss Maud Hughes, aged 23; Miss Gertrude Hayner, aged about 19, and Harry Brady, aged 20, all belonging to Grimsby, were killed on the public crossing at Grimsby station last night by the Toronto express train. The young people were on the way home from church.

Winnipeg, Dec. 8.—(Special)—The report that D. D. Mann, president of the Canadian Northern, was injured in the collision on the Canadian Northern at La Broquerie yesterday is untrue. Mr Mann's car was attached to one of the colliding trains, but no injury to himself or party resulted. Mrs. Watson and Miss Williams of Toronto were among the occupants of Mr. Mann's car.

Halifax, Dec. 8.—Steamer Corinthian arrived this morning from Liverpool with mails. Among her passengers were Wilkinson and Shelton, two of the Second C. M. R. men who made names for themselves in South Africa. Wilkinson, cornered with a party, used his rifle until his ammunition was all gone, and then he broke his rifle so that it would be no good to the Boers. Shelton also saw hot service and was wounded in the leg. Wilkinson lost one eye and had one of his arms disabled.

Sergt.-Major Malins, Second C. M. R., and Pres. Holtes, Webb, Davis and Mitchell, Fifth C. M. R., who remained in South Africa after their regiments left for home, also came on the Corinthian, having found that the land of the Boer offered no inducements for them.

Quebec, Dec. 8.—There is an epidemic of diphtheria at Deschambault, near here, and a number of deaths have occurred. Dozens of children are laid up with the malady, which is of a most severe type. There were eight or ten deaths from the disease last week.

Toronto, Dec. 8.—Returns of the prohibition referendum as far as heard from give: For, 150,576; against, 35,427.

KING OF PORTUGAL

Ends Visit to England and Goes Home.

London, Dec. 8.—The King of Portugal concluded this morning a visit of three weeks to England and started homeward by way of Paris.

HORRIBLE DEATH.

Sow Tears a Man to Pieces and Devours Flesh.

Thessalon, Ont., Dec. 8.—James Lovatt, postmaster at Dayton, while doing some chores in the yard on Saturday, was seized with a fainting fit and fell to the ground unconscious, and while in that condition was partially devoured and killed by a sow, which was running about the yard. His face, head and breast were torn almost free of flesh, his stomach torn out and legs and arms fearfully lacerated. Lovatt was alone at the time, the family having gone away.

KAISER PARTY.

New Party to Be Started in Germany.

Berlin, Dec. 8.—Baron Von Eckarstein, late first secretary of the German embassy in London, has issued invitations to various distinguished gentlemen in Hesse, Baden, Wurtemburg, Bavaria, Prussia, and Nassau to meet at Frankfort, Maine, December 16 to consider the formation of a new national party to uphold Emperor William's policy; hence it will be called the Kaiser party. The efforts of the new party will be directed against Socialism and Agrarianism.

CABLE STEAMER SILVERTOWN

The cable steamer Silvertown, which is to lay the cable between San Francisco and Honolulu, arrived at San Francisco on Friday and landed the shore end of her cable, which is to connect San Francisco with Honolulu, on Saturday last. She has 2,413 miles of cable, which will be laid at the rate of seven knots an hour. The Silvertown has the record of carrying the largest wheat cargo from San Francisco to England, for when she was returning from the Orient some years ago after laying a cable line, she went to San Francisco to load grain, and filled her tanks with 6,000 tons. The Colonia and Anglia, the cable steamers which laid the Pacific cable, are now on their way home to load the remainder of the cable, those sections which will connect Honolulu with Manila via Guam.

All cases of weak or lame back, backache, rheumatism, will find relief by wearing one of Carter's Smart Weed and Belladonna Backache Plasters. Price 25 cents. Try them.

The Council Of Women

Annual Meeting and Reports of Work For The Year.

Various Resolutions are Discussed and Passed--Election of Officers.

The eighth annual meeting of the Local Council of Women of Victoria and Vancouver Island, opened at 10 o'clock yesterday with silent prayer, after which the president announced the reception of two new societies, viz: The Ladies of the Maccabees and the Ladies of the Chinese Rescue Home. The roll call was answered by the officers of the council, and 18 affiliated societies.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by the Recording Secretary, Mrs. G. Grant. Letters of regret on account of unavoidable absence were read from Mrs. Robson, Miss Crease and Miss Carr. Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. Wight were, on motion, appointed tellers and returning officers for the election of officers, Mrs. Spofford was appointed corresponding secretary protem. in the absence of Mrs. Galletly.

The report of the corresponding secretary was read by Mrs. Spofford, and adopted:

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Madam President and Ladies.—It gives me great pleasure to be able once more to report on the doings of the Council in the past year, at this our eighth annual meeting.

There are perhaps no great deeds to record, but our agenda for today will show that we are not yet daunted by former unsuccessful attempts in connection with education and reform.

We are thankful to report that the Curfew By-law is at last passed, and that a very audible bell now reminds wandering young people that there is danger in being abroad.

The knoty question of National Council finances is, we believe, not yet settled, but we have expect to have to take our share in that most important matter.

Miss Wilson's resignation as corresponding secretary to the National Council, came as a blow to all local Councils, each one considering that it had lost a valuable friend at headquarters.

We perhaps have special feeling of regret, she being personally known to many of us.

The disbanding, we hope only temporarily, of the Historical Society of Victoria, has taken away an important society from our midst, but we have occasion to pleasure in welcoming this year the Chinese Refuge Home, and the Ladies of the Maccabees, the work of both these societies appealing strongly to the sympathies of many of the societies already affiliated.

We feel that we cannot yet congratulate ourselves on the complete banishment of impure literature—no efforts, however, have been spared to suppress it.

It is a matter of much regret that we cannot yet say that anything has been done towards the improvement of our Boys' Reformatory, the report of our committee showing a most deplorable state of affairs existing there.

One thing that promises to increase our usefulness this year has been secured through the able representations of our delegate, Mrs. Baxter, to the annual meeting of the National Council, and that is the right to have provincial conventions.

We have maintained our position of having a representative on the School Board. One might wish to see that number again increased to two.

The Women's Department of the Agricultural Exhibition has this year again been entrusted to our management, and we must here express our great regret that the engagements of so many of our members threw altogether an unreasonable amount of the work entailed upon our president.

We record with pleasure that owing to Mrs. Robson having become our Honorary President, we can now number Mrs. McGregor among our Vice-Presidents.

An appeal has lately been received in connection with a proposed consumption hospital at Kamloops, so lately that it has been impossible for us to do anything in the matter, but this subject coming up later for discussion, we hope that some definite steps may be taken today towards helping those of our own sex who are afflicted with this dread disease.

Hoping for Divine guidance in the future and gratefully acknowledging His goodness in the past, we enter on our new year with courage and thankfulness.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JEANNIE G. GALLETLY,
Secretary L. C. W. V. & V. I.

The treasurer's report was read by Mrs. Wm. Grant, showing a balance on hand of $84.05, and adopted.

The report of the Friendly Help society was read by Miss Lawson, showing that the numbers assisted were increasing annually. Christmas treats were thankfully received. The district visiting is still kept up. A pleasing feature of the report was that the needs of the society only had to be made known, when they were supplied by generous supporters.

Reports from the affiliated societies were then read:

Ladies' Aid, First Presbyterian church by Mrs. Losee;

Ladies' Aid, St. James' church, by Mrs. Vincent;

Report of Emmanuel Baptist Missionary society by Mrs. McNaughton;

Missionary society, Metropolitan Methodist church, by Mrs. E. S. Rowe;

Ladies' Aid of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, by Mrs. McKilligan;

W. C. T. U. Refuge Home, by Miss Perrin;

W. C. T. U., by Mrs. Sherwood;

James Bay Methodist Ladies' Aid, by Mrs. Powell;

Emmanuel Baptist Missionary society, by Mrs. Van Tosse;

Ladies' Aid, Centennial Methodist church, by Mrs. Bone;

Calvary Baptist Missionary society, by Mrs. Fletcher;

St. Paul's Ladies' Aid, by Mrs. Williscroft;

Centennial Methodist Missionary society, by Mrs. Barker;

Home Nursing society, by Miss Perrin.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session of the council opened at 2 p. m. The minutes of the morning session were read and adopted. His Lordship, the Bishop of Columbia, was introduced to the council, and gave a very encouraging and interesting address in his usual happy manner.

A resolution was moved by Mrs. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. G. Grant, and referred to the first meeting of the executive.

The President's address by Miss Perrin was as follows:

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Ladies,—As President of the Local Council of Women, allow me, although our meeting is half over, to welcome the members of the executive, and the delegates of affiliated societies to this our eighth annual meeting. The number of representatives this year seems less, as some societies have not sent any reply to the notices, and I suppose we must conclude that they have ceased to be affiliated. On the other hand we welcome two new societies, the one of the Ladies of the Maccabees, which has been reorganized with life and vigor in Victoria, to carry on its helpful work, the other a work that is doing a quiet but most blessed labor of love in trying to redeem those belonging to other nations from a life of sin and shame. My words today will be few. I feel that last year I said all that I could to show the value of the Local Council, both in regard to the different works it was called upon to undertake, and also in the useful relation to the affiliated societies. I tried to point out some of the difficulties that were in the way of faithfully carrying out the work, and I made several suggestions by which it could be quickened and improved. But I am afraid that President's address has gone the way of many predecessors, and although at the unanimous request of the last annual meeting it was printed and circulated among the societies I am bound today honestly to say that the report of the work accomplished during the past year does not lead me to change my opinion expressed on December 9th, 1901, "that a President's Address does not do much good, that it says the same thing in different words every year, and the practical outcome of it is small."

One subject we have for congratulation, and that is the passing of the Curfew By-law by the Municipal Council. Since 1895 we have petitioned for it, and now that we have the law, we hope it will be of use in preventing that which all agree is wrong, in children to be allowed to be in the streets late in the evening. Already an improvement is noticeable, but there is always a danger of growing accustomed to everything, and retarding effort. The curfew bell should be a nightly reminder to us that the law has to be enforced, and our next step should be to secure the appointment of an officer of the Children's Aid Society, who will make it part of his work to see that the children who are sent after prohibited hours, without proper protectors, are dealt with according to the law. The Woman's Department of the Agricultural Exhibition was decidedly improved this year. In the full report presented to the Local Council, it was shown that the number of exhibits was double that of the previous year, and the workers gave their time cheerfully and willingly to take charge of the articles, and make all necessary arrangements, but here again we must not rest contented, for there are yet many lessons to be learned from exhibitions in other cities, and it will take some years' work and experience before we can expect to equal them.

In this year's programme we miss several old resolutions, those, for instance, relating to the liquor law, to the smoking of cigarettes by children, to the closing of certain stores on Sundays. The omission does not mean that we have abandoned hope of ever getting these wrongs righted, or that we consider them any less necessary to the welfare of our city, but I believe the reason to be that certain subjects just now are being discussed by the women in their different societies, and feeling that union is strength, they invite the help of other women, by the means of the Local Council, to assist them in gaining their end, which they believe will be a benefit and help to others. Of course, merely petitioning a provincial government or a city corporation is an easy matter, but without individual interest and effort no good will be accomplished. Take, for instance, the establishment of a Home for Consumptives at Kamloops. If we merely request the government to take steps to appropriate the Dominion grant, we shall only be accused of interfering in politics, but if we can show that our request is only the first step, and that the Local Councils of the province intend by a united effort, to take their share in the work of raising a fund for assisting those female sufferers in our province, who cannot otherwise benefit by the sanitorium, then our work is practical and will commend itself to everyone.

Again, take the question of introducing Domestic Science into our schools, one that we have discussed before at these annual meetings. The authorities will not be moved to action by any resolution asking that the subject be added to the curriculum, but if it be followed by an offer to raise $300, the sum necessary to equip and establish a school as an object lesson to the Board of Education, as has been done this year in Halifax, then we become practical, and an ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory or suggestion. But it all means effort and individual effort, if by this time next year we are to have the satisfaction of seeing the resolutions of today something more than printed form on an agenda.

The old difficulty meets us always. The women who belong to the Local Council are already occupied in their own societies, and cannot spare the time for other work, but what is done in other places can be done here if the real aim and work of the Local Council were better understood, and it could be seen that as Lady Aberdeen said in her letter to the National Council, "The matters relating to organization and practical work were means to an end, and that end is the knitting of all our workers together in bonds of mutual understanding and fellowship, for high patriotic and sacred work of the welfare of our country." So often we hear the question, "What is the good of the Council? What is its work?" And a satisfactory answer can only be given when, as individuals we have learned by our own experience. Those who attend our monthly meetings regularly are interested themselves, but too often there the interest ends, and a Local Council can only be strong and vigorous if all the members of the affiliated societies in one way or another co-operate in the work and in the spirit that must animate the work.

The changes in the members of the executive of the National Council do not seem to have interfered with its progress. While we must all regard the resignation of Lady Taylor as President and especially the reason that necessitated the resignation, the appointment of Mrs. Thomson with her experience in connection with the vigorous Local Council of St. John, N. B., must be a matter of satisfaction to all.

After years of valuable work for the Council, Miss Teresa Wilson has resigned the post of corresponding secretary, and has also left the country, so that her connection with the Council is ended. She will be missed in all departments of Council work, and at the annual meeting a well deserved tribute of gratitude was expressed by everyone. The post of secretary has been filled by Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, with a healthy standard of living, deprecating the use of alcoholic liquors as these stimulants prepare fruitful ground for the spread of the disease.

Resolution II., was proposed by the L. C. W., moved Mrs. Goodacre, seconded by Mrs. Wood, and carried.

HOME INFLUENCE.

Mrs. C. E. Cooper read an admirable paper on "Home Influence," which was listened to with great interest. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Cooper for the valuable paper.

Resolution IV., was moved by Mrs. Rowe, seconded by Mrs. Powell. A committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. G. Grant, Mrs. Jenkins, Miss Cameron, Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. King, with power to add to their number, to interview the Attorney-General re the work Carried.

A plea for a recreation room for boys was brought forward by Mrs. Walls. Mrs. Spofford moved that a committee be appointed to fully consider the matter, seconded by Mrs. Jenkins.

Resolution V. was referred to the next meeting of the executive.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The tellers reported the following officers duly elected:

Hon. President, Mrs. J. Robson.
President, Miss Perrin.
First Vice-President, Mrs. McGregor.
Second Vice-President, Miss Carr.
Third Vice-President, Mrs. Burns.
Fourth Vice-President, Miss Crease.
Fifth Vice-President, Mrs. Rowe.
Recording-Secretary, Mrs. G. Grant.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Spofford.
Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Grant.

Moved that Mrs. McGregor be the nominee of the Woman's Council for School Trustee.

The following was the official programme of the meeting:

MORNING SESSION.

Silent prayer.
Reception of New Societies.
Roll Call.
Minutes of last Annual Meeting.
Correspondence.
Appointment of Returning Officers and Tellers for the Ballot.
Annual Report.
Treasurer's Report.
Report of Friendly Help Association.
Report of Affiliated Societies.
Voting for Officers by Ballot.
Resolution I.—By the Home Nursing Society and the W. C. T. U. Refuge Home: "Whereas illegitimate children are frequently left chargeable to the city and province, there being no law to compel the maintenance of such by the father, therefore be it resolved that the Local Council of Women endeavor to secure similar legislation on this point to that which is provided in other provinces of the Dominion."
Speakers—Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Gordon Grant and others.
Adjournment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Minutes.
President's Address.
Resolution II.—By the Executive of the L. C. W.

"As the present condition of the 'Old Men's Home in this city is known to be far from satisfactory, be it resolved that the City Council be asked to order an investigation, and to make such changes in the management and arrangements as may be necessary."

Resolution III.—By the Executive of the L. W. C.

"Whereas it is understood that the Dominion government is willing to appropriate the sum of $10,000 towards the erection of a Provincial Home for Consumptives,