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Signature of Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co. Castoria is so well adapted to children... Every wrapper.

DEATH OF THOS. B. REED. WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The remains of Hon. Thomas Brackett Reed, formerly speaker of the house of representatives, who died early this morning, left here this afternoon for Portland, Me., his former home, where an interment will take place on Tuesday afternoon.

MARRIAGES. AIG-STARKY.—At the Methodist parsonage, Young's Cove, Nov. 24th, by Rev. L. Wilson, Alfred Craig of St. John's, N. B., and Catherine, daughter of Daniel Starkey of the Island, Quebec, N. B.

DEATHS. BERN.—In this city, at a private residence, Dec. 11th, after a lingering illness, Mrs. Bern, aged 85 years, leaving a wife and 12 children, 4 boys and 8 girls.

ALMOST WAR. Great Britain and Germany Working Together. Send Combined Fleet to Enforce Their Claims Against Venezuela.

While a Shot Has Not Been Fired, the Coast is Blockaded and Several Vessels of the Local Navy Captured.—The United States Will Not Interfere.

On the northern coast of Venezuela British and German fleets are gathering to "demonstrate" that President Castro's government had better pay its debts. The British base will be at Port of Spain, and the custom house at Guayra, the port of Caracas, will probably be seized and held.

THE FRENCH CLAIMS. 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.

Venezuela assures a satisfactory settlement of the French claims. MINISTERS SEEK SAFETY. CARACAS, Dec. 8.—The British minister, W. H. D. Haggard, and the German charge d'affaires, Von Pilschke, left Caracas at 8 o'clock this afternoon for La Guayra, where Minister Haggard went on board the British cruiser Retribution, and Herr Von Pilschke, on the German cruiser Victoria.

CASTRO'S OPEN LETTER. The Venezuelan press publishes an open letter from President Castro to the embroglio with Great Britain and Germany. In this communication President Castro says: "Foreign cablegrams relate that certain foreign nations among them Great Britain and Germany, have allied themselves together to carry out acts of violence and aggression against Venezuela."

AN AMERICAN MEDIATOR TURNED DOWN. WASHINGTON, D. C., 10.—Mr. Bowen wishes to play the part of peace maker, but both the principals and the mediator have refused to accept his offer. The United States will not interfere.

WILL BLOCKADE THE COAST. HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 10.—The British warship, the Retribution, is expected to open the Orinoco river to free navigation and trade.

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OTTAWA. Boston and Portland to Rejoice Over Canada's Discomfiture. Sir Charles Tupper Says Foster Will Get the North Ontario Nomination—Supreme Court Matters—Bank of Ottawa Recognized Long and Good Service.

OTTAWA, Dec. 10.—It looks as if it will only be a question of a few days before the British authorities will place an embargo on Canadian cattle being landed at England. At any rate it will not be the fault of some American officers if this embargo is not forthcoming, and Boston and Portland made to rejoice. It has been reported that the government here, through American sources, an important official of the U. S. department of agriculture, has been mentioned that information has reached the department of agriculture in England that a case of foot and mouth disease had developed in Toronto through an incursion from an infected district in New England.

OTTAWA, Dec. 10.—Up to a late hour last night the foreign office was without further news regarding the situation in Venezuela. While there is no confirmation of the rumors of a meeting in La Guayra, etc., the newspapers this morning are beginning to show a keener appreciation of the serious possibilities involved by President Castro's "defiance" of the British.

OTTAWA, Dec. 10.—Col. Macdonald, director of military stores, was the victim of an unfortunate accident. A large portion of the ceiling fell on him while he was in his office this afternoon. The colonel was severely cut and bruised about the head and will be laid up for some days.

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