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NEW

ENGLAND SEIZES BIRD'S ISLAND

Cruiser Lands Force at Aves, British West Indies.

KINGSTOWN, Island of St. Vincent, British West Indies, Aug. 13.—The British cruiser Tribune on Aug. 11 landed a party under command of Lieut. Threlfall at Aves, or Bird's, Island, 127 miles west of the north end of the Island of Dominica, and annexed it as a British possession. Guns were hauled through the surf and landed, the British flag was hoisted, and a royal salute was fired.

The Tribune then proceeded direct to St. Vincent, arriving here yesterday.

The Tribune left to-day, being ordered to Venezuela to protect British interests at Caracas.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The State Department has no information of the action of the British ship Tribune in landing a force on Bird Island, near the Island of Dominica, one of the Windward Islands, raising the British flag, and taking possession. At the State Department the matter was regarded to-night as one of many similar incidents connected with the claiming and working of guano deposits. A prominent official in the State Department said to-night of the matter:

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 1904

KEPT HANDY

at Admiral Jewell's
Near Ottoman
Some Months.

Aug. 13.—The is-
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to the satisfaction of

this morning saw
a Minister of Foreign
the urgent repre-
merican Government for
ent of the demands
of American citizens
interview with the
na proceeded imme-

ce between Minister
asha, Secretary of the
Melhame, Assistant
cks, not Selim Pasha,
cabled yesterday, oc-
man's Summer resi-
d lasted eight hours,
asha exchanged com-
Palace.

discussion the Turk-
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schools, and contested
to certain privileges
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payment to an Amer-
the sum of \$25,000,
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were made to induce
the American squad-

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"We are having accounts of such things continually. Only to-day a complaint was lodged at the department against the Cuban Government for making claim to a guano island in the West Indies. Our people take these islands, hold them for a while, and let them go again. Any person, no matter under what Government he may make claim, may take a guano island anywhere he finds it. Our citizens claim this right, and we concede it to the citizens of another country.

"If the British hauled the guns up through the surf and hoisted the flag and all that, they did the thing up brown and they ought to have the guano if there is any there. The trouble with guano nowadays is that it is hardly worth anything, and most of the guano people have shut down to wait for the cheaper deposits to become exhausted."

PANIC AT GAS TANK FIRE.

Harlem Tenements Emptied — Firemen Do Valiant Work.

Residents of the tenements between One Hundred and Tenth and One Hundred and Eleventh Streets and First and Second Avenues had the scare of their lives last night, and the immense gas tanks of the Consolidated Gas Company, which are located at this point, had a narrow escape from destruction because of the carelessness, it is charged, of a watchman employed by the company. It was not until a number of fire companies, working under the most dangerous surroundings, had succeeded in putting out the flames around one of the tanks that the frightened crowd returned to their homes.

At 8 o'clock the watchman, whose identity has not yet been learned, was making his rounds of the tanks when the lamp which he was carrying fell from his hand and was shattered. The burning wick and oil fell into the water in which one of the

Pleasure Craft Salute
While Police Are Re-
Bodies from the

Special to The New
WASHINGTON, Aug. 13

women, spectators at the regatta on the Potomac in town this afternoon, were capsizing of a gasoline launch fourteen persons in the launch were rescued.

During the first race the by Drs. Stewart and Wagner of the eight-oared shell officials reprimanded its crew them off the course.

The accident occurred a river opposite a mill race strong current. The second rowed and preparations were for the third race. The crowd was so fixed on the upsetting of the launch until too late to render aid.

The occupants of the launch immediately upon being thrown and the swift current carried along and beyond reach of the craft anchored along the shore.

The dead are Charles Blumold, a druggist; John Walden, two years old; J. George Wagner, dealer; William Smith, 10 old, an employe of the Herbert Coats, thirty-five tailor; A. J. Booze, about 10 old, a salesman; Miss Helen Lula Dreyfus, Miss Hazel Bertrim Selbach.

Those who were saved were Wagner, C. A. Stewart, John William Lederer.

Many of the spectators officials of the district government against the continuance of view of the tragedy, but the charge declined to stop the regatta.

The cheering for the craft they passed the scene of the shrill and deafening pleasure craft continued of the unfortunate victims grappled for, dragged into the police station.

Major Sylvester, the State Police, and Coroner Glasgow the scene and directed the large corps of police, detective assistants engaged in identifying the bodies.

J. A. Wolfe, who was steering says he jumped from the launch he saw the water flow over was the first in the water; swimmer, but had a hard time to the shore.

"Dr. Wagner and I," says