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## BOER COMMANDER WAS HURRYING TO BLOEMFONTEIN.

HE FOUND THE RAILWAY CUT

Gatacre Crossed the Orange River and Occupied Bethulle-Southern Free State Clear of Boers.

LONDON, March 15, 5 A. M.—Events are moving in the South African campaign in a speedy and satisfactory manner from both military and political points of view. It could hardly have been expected by the most sanguine Englishmen that they would take a turn so favorable.

It appears that when Major Weston cut the railway north of Bloemfontein, he thereby intercepted General Joubert, who, far from having retired from the campaign, was then coming southward with 3000 men, presumably to superintend the defense. Elaborate defense works three miles long had been prepared outside the town. Joubert was wounded on the left in Bloemfontein. When asked the reason by Lord Roberts, Mr. Fraser replied: "The burghers do not like fish, and would not care to go to Cape Town."

The evidence goes to show that so far as the southern part of the Free State is concerned, there will be no further resistance. It is understood that Mr. Fraser, who has been in the Free State since quite prepared to accept the position of a self-governing British colony.

The cheers which greeted the reading in Parliament yesterday of the response to the Boer ultimatum were echoed throughout the country. The speech of Mr. Del Castejo has increased this satisfaction, and taken with the general belief that Emperor Nicholas is personally averse to any intervention, these incidents spread the idea that there will be no further serious attempt to interrupt the progress of the British advance.

Montagu White's threat, in an American newspaper, that the Boers will attack Johannesburg, and raise it to the ground if necessary, is not taken very seriously. Mr. Chamberlain's statement that President Kruger has already been warned as to the consequences of such conduct is regarded as showing that sufficient precaution has been taken. The Times suggests that burghers should be warned that their farms would be taxed as a guarantee against any damage to British property, but no serious apprehensions are entertained of such conduct as Mr. White is said to have forewarned. J. B. Robinson, the millionaire mineowner, says he does not believe the Boers would be so foolish.

By the time Lord Roberts reaches the Vaal River he will command some 50,000 men, while General Buller will have 40,000. From the military point of view the crisis now think there is nothing to fear.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Lourenco Marques, dated Thursday, says that strong communication are being sent at Warrenton, where the Free Staters are going to make a stand.

GATACRE CROSS THE ORANGE. Force Goes North From Bloemfontein to Juba Him.

LONDON, March 15.—The War Office has received the following from Lord Roberts: "Bloemfontein, Thursday, March 15, 7:55 P. M.—General Gatacre crossed the Orange River and occupied Bethulle-Southern. General Reginald Pole-Carew, with 2000 men of the Guards brigade, two guns and a small body of mounted infantry, left here in three trains this morning to join hands with General Gatacre and General Clements. He had passed Bethulle by 4:40 P. M., without meeting with opposition, having been able to supply from his troops, engineers, fitters, smiths, carpenters, etc."

FEARED THE TRANSVAALERS. People of Bloemfontein Welcomed the British.

LONDON, March 15.—The Standard has the following dispatch from Bloemfontein, dated Thursday, March 15: "The civil authorities here decidedly made up their minds to surrender Monday. A stormy meeting was held, presided over by Mr. Steyn, whom Mr. Fraser denounced as a coward, charging him with a lack of enough moral courage to cope with the situation. The meeting was, however, not to be persuaded, and when the meeting broke up he left for the north.

"The occupation was extremely orderly and well managed. The spectacle was most impressive, when the Sixth division marched through in grand style, notwithstanding that, like the rest of the army, it had covered 40 miles. Large numbers of the burghers are surrendering their arms. Many have fled to their homes. Others are trekking to the north with their cattle and goods. During the last few days the inhabitants of Bloemfontein had been in deadly fear of the violence of the Transvaalers, and consequently the city resembles rather a beleaguered than a captured town.

"Mr. Wessels, President of the Rand, has gone to England to solicit public sympathy and to plead for the independence of the Free State."

OCCUPATION OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

How Lord Roberts Entered the Town

BLOEMFONTEIN, Tuesday, March 15.—Lord Roberts entered the Free State capital today, practically unopposed. He lay at Venter's Vlei, 13 miles away, last night, with General Kelly-Kenny and General Colville's divisions. The mounted infantry, General French, having cut the railway and telegraph, experienced a slight skirmish with some Boers holding the kopjes southeast of the town. Early in the morning the cavalry brigade moved forward and occupied several kopjes, which commanded the Boers. A few well-placed shells from the horse artillery drove off the enemy.

General French then sent out scouts to feel their way toward the town, perceiving which the correspondents of the Sydney Herald and the London Daily News, with one other, galloped forward and entered the town, which were an every-day aspect. The people were out shopping or for morning walks, and at first the few newspaper men were regarded as town-folk. When later it became known that they were the forerunners of the British army, they were greeted cordially and conducted to a club, where they met Mr. Fraser, of the executive council, the Mayor and other officials. Those they persuaded to take carriages and go to meet Lord Roberts.

As the party drove out of the city the British cavalry were closing around like a huge net. The deputation soon arrived opposite the kopje where Lord Roberts was stationed and this correspondent rode forward and had the honor of announcing to the Commander-in-Chief that Bloemfontein would surrender. A little later the

## JOUBERT TOO LATE

deputation began to approach, and Lord Roberts went forward to meet them.

The scene was picturesque in the extreme. A few yards away the left in a battery pointed their grim mouths toward the late position of the Boers, while the tin roofs of Bloemfontein shone in the distance. After salutes had been exchanged, a messenger on a deputation stepped forward and declared that the town wished to surrender, hoping that Lord Roberts would protect life and property. He replied that, provided there was no opposition, he would undertake to guarantee the security of both. The interview was very cordial, without a sign of solemnity. It struck this correspondent that the deputation seemed relieved by the presence of the British troops. Lord Roberts notified the deputation of his intention of entering the town in state, and they withdrew to inform the townspeople.

Lord Roberts then made his military disposition, ordering the First Brigade to follow him and to take possession of the town. With his staff and the military attaché he ascended the kopje and arrived on the plain, where he waited until the brigade approached. Then he entered the city, followed by his personal staff, the general staff, the military attaché and the troops.

SECRETARY REITS' STATEMENT. Refutation of the Arguments in Salisbury's Telegram.

PRETORIA, Wednesday, March 14.—State Secretary Reits' refutation of Lord Salisbury's arguments in the reply to the Bloemfontein joint note was issued today.

"The British Government, after the Bloemfontein conference, endeavored to enforce by threats certain changes in the internal government of the Transvaal Republic, contrary to the London convention. They also imported troops in great numbers and broke off negotiations with a threat to take their own means to remove the grievances of the people. It was waiting a fortnight while an army corps was prepared and the reserves were being called out by the British, President Steyn and the cabinet members, including Mr. Alfred Milner refused to comply. Meanwhile, Mr. Chamberlain, in his speeches, showed the world that England had declared war. Accordingly the Transvaal from any demand for the withdrawal of the troops, as otherwise it would accept the independence of the Republic as a declaration of war. That was not necessarily intended as a message of war."

Concerning the armaments, Mr. Reits says: "These were bought openly in England and in Europe, and the High Commissioners boasted full knowledge of them at the Bloemfontein conference, and also full descriptions of those armaments were found among the official papers at Durban."

"Both the army and the ultimatum were protective measures subsequent to the raid and to the discovery, through concealed cables, that British Cabinet Ministers were implicated in the attempt to break the independence of the Republic. Now all doubt is removed by Lord Salisbury's telegram. The burghers must fight for their independence, trusting that God will defend the right."

Not a Reply to Salisbury.

LONDON, March 15.—The Pretoria correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Wednesday, says: "Mr. Reits' statement has been published throughout the Republic, but will not be forwarded to Lord Salisbury. Consular officials show that the Republic was prepared to grant substantial reforms and concessions until the receipt of Lord Salisbury's telegram. The statement is, in fact, a statement which is better than a rotten egg."

METHUEN PRAISES THE BOERS.

Lack of Vindictive Feeling Between the Two Armies.

CAPE TOWN, March 15.—Lord Methuen, speaking at the Town Hall at Kimberley today, said: "Although some of the enemy's men were guilty of dastardly tricks, we must remember that their army is not organized with the discipline of our own. I never wish to meet a braver General than Cronje, and never served in a war where there was less vindictive feeling between the two armies than in this one."

Peace Party's Resolution.

LONDON, March 15.—The executive committee of those who have organized themselves into a body in favor of stopping the war publicly announced today that the effect of the reply of the Premier to the appeal of President Kruger and Steyn, "tears off the mask and reveals the truth, so long denied, that the war is being waged for the independence of the Dutch commonwealth, and declares a time will come when all who are opposed to the 'war of extermination' will unite in a solemn protest."

WILL CHANGE ITS ROUTE.

Great Northern Abandons Part of Its Montana Line.

MINNEAPOLIS, March 15.—The Great Northern has decided to abandon over 100 miles of its line in Western Montana, building a new track, in order to avoid some bad grades and marshes. Work will begin as soon as the weather will permit. The new line leaves the old one several miles west of Kalispell, and while following in a general way the course of the old line, climbs up into the Libby. It will rejoin the old line at Libby, and all stations between that point and Kalispell will be missed.

Sold Out to the Pullman.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15.—The Southern Pacific Company will relinquish all interest in the Pullman cars on the system April 1. It was officially announced today that a new contract has been entered into between the Southern Pacific and the Pullman Company whereby the latter will acquire by purchase all of the company's sleeping car interests and will thereafter operate the same over the Southern Pacific lines, under a mileage arrangement similar to that existing on all the other big railroad systems of the country. The price paid by the Pullman Company is said to be \$1,500,000.

Huntington's Guatemala Line.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15.—D. B. Hodgson, general manager of the Ferro-Carril Central de Guatemala, has arrived here. He is to meet Col. F. Huntington here next month relative to an extension of the Guatemala Central Railroad from Guatemala City east to the Atlantic Coast. Mr. Huntington is the president and owner of the road, which is now operated from San Jose, a port on the Pacific Ocean, east to Guatemala City.

Reception to Hugh Hanna.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 15.—The Board of Trade and Commercial Club entertained today and decided to give a public reception to Hugh Hanna next week to celebrate the signing of the currency bill, which has been fostered by the monetary commission of which Mr. Hanna is the head.

## A MORAL OBLIGATION

Our Promises to the Puerto Ricans Must Be Kept.

PROFESSOR SCHURMAN'S VIEWS

Philippine, Already Distrusting Us, Are Watching the Course of Legislation in This Country.

NEW YORK, March 15.—The following letter from President J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University, President of the old Philippine Commission, to a personal friend, is published here today: "I agree with you that the United States is under obligation to extend its tariff laws to the island of Puerto Rico. But I cannot accept your contention that this obligation is derived from the Constitution, which, in my judgment, does not, of its own force, apply to any territory. The obligation is moral, not Constitutional."

"As the President said, with equal truth and felicity, it is our plain duty. We are bound to do so by solemn promise. The supreme and irresistible reason for removing all customs barriers between the United States and Puerto Rico is the promise made by General Miles when the first landing was made by American forces on the island, that the Puerto Ricans should enjoy the same rights, provisions and immunities as the people of the United States. On this understanding the Puerto Ricans accepted American sovereignty, not only without opposition, but with joyful trust and confidence."

"The President's policy, beginning with a reference to the reverence with which the Boers regard their women, and the fact that the women have been fighting in the trenches. He declared the Boers had demonstrated and would demonstrate their right and fitness to govern themselves. He charged England with supplying the natives with guns to use against the Dutch; with falsifying the surveys, in order to get possession of the diamond fields; with mistreating the natives and Boers, and with other reprehensible things. He concluded with an appeal that America intervene to stop hostilities, and reiterated the statement that European nations would have intervened if they had but known how the United States stands."

"It is said a tariff is needed between Puerto Rico and the United States to provide a case for the courts to determine the extent of our jurisdiction over the dependencies, especially the Philippines. I answer that, in my opinion, no expediency, no other obligation, ever justified a breach of the National good faith. "Let me add, too, that this Puerto Rican legislation is testing us before the eyes of the Philippine people, who are informed on all our doings. They will judge by this legislation the value of American promises. When the ablest and most statesmanlike of our dependencies, the Philippine Commission once expressed the fear that the American Government might not keep the promises it was making. If Spain, said he, made promises and broke these, why should we be faithful to our pledges and recant to ourselves? Such an exhibition of ourselves will strengthen the hands of Aguinaldo and the insurgents, unhappily, it can be used to support their persistent statement that the Americans are no more trustworthy than the Spaniards. It will shake the confidence of the Philippine people, and will confirm their distrust of us, quicken their suspicions and breed new and perhaps ineradicable antipathy? God forbid!"

MEDIATION CORRESPONDENCE

Papers Passing Through State Department Sent to the Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—In response to a resolution, the President today sent to the Senate the correspondence relating to the requests for mediation in South Africa. The first document is a dispatch from Pretoria, dated March 10, which states: "An official request by the Governments of the Republics to urge your intervention with a view to cessation of hostilities; since a request made to representatives of European powers. Answer: confirm receipt. AMERICAN CONSUL."

Mr. Hay responded: "Our telegraph asking offices of the United States to bring about the cessation of hostilities has been made subject of friendly communication to the British Government, with expressions of President's sympathy. HAY."

Secretary Hay telegraphed Mr. White, Secretary of the American Embassy at London: "I am very friendly good offices, you will inform the British Minister for Foreign Affairs that I am today in receipt of a cablegram from the United States Consul at Pretoria representing that the governments of the two African Republics request the President's intervention with a view of a cessation of hostilities and that a similar request is made to the representatives of European powers. In communicating this request, I am directed by the President to express his earnest hope that a way to bring about peace may be found and to say that he would be glad to aid in any friendly manner to promote so happy a result. HAY."

Mr. White replied to Secretary Hay, under date of March 15: "I communicated yesterday to the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, having been unable to see Lord Salisbury, the contents of your telegram dated 10th inst. Today I have had an interview with His Lordship, who requested me to thank the President for the friendly interest shown by him and adds that Her Majesty's Government cannot accept the intervention of any power. WHITE."

Hay telegraphed the Consul at Pretoria, under date of March 14, the following: "Your communication of request of republics for intervention of President to cause cessation of hostilities was at once conveyed to British Government, with expressions of President's gratification could be to promote peace. Our Embassy in London replied that Lord Salisbury thanks the President for friendly interest shown and adds Her Majesty's Government cannot accept the intervention of any power. HAY."

The President's message is simply one of transmission.

Standard Oil's Big Dividend.

NEW YORK, March 15.—The Standard Oil Company today announced a regular quarterly dividend of 3 percent, and 10 percent extra cash dividend. This probably is the largest cash dividend ever made at any one time on the stock of a single corporation. Standard Oil was quoted on the curb today at 52 1/2. The magnitude of the shifting of capital involved in today's payment may be judged by the fact

that the largest quarterly payment which the United States Government ever has to make on its debts is \$5,400,000.

## BOER SYMPATHIZERS.

New York Mass Meeting Addressed by Montagu White.

NEW YORK, March 15.—There was a meeting of Boer sympathizers at Cooper Union tonight, at which George H. van Hoesen presided. Montagu White, the Boer representative; John E. Mulholland and P. L. Wessels, a representative of the Orange Free State, made speeches. Mr. van Hoesen prophesied that "not until all the Boers are in their graves or all the English are in flight will the war be over."

President McKinley's name was hissed and booed and the mention of Bryan's name brought forth cheers.

Mr. White made the references to Bryan that were cheered. Another remark of his that was enthusiastically cheered was: "I hope the day may be far distant when there is in reality a case of hands across the sea—to stifle the life and independence of America."

"A nation making war cannot provide a drawing-room for its enemy. The Boers would neither have lost nor gained by the destruction of Johannesburg; but the case of Johannesburg is different, as it would provide splendid barracks accommodation for the British, and by reason of its location and other advantages an invaluable base for operations."

As to the reported statement of the British that President Kruger would be held personally responsible for any destruction of property, he said: "President Kruger is very well able to take care of himself, and if he is not, I call upon you to take care of him."

When the speaker, beginning with a reference to the reverence with which the Boers regard their women, and the fact that the women have been fighting in the trenches. He declared the Boers had demonstrated and would demonstrate their right and fitness to govern themselves. He charged England with supplying the natives with guns to use against the Dutch; with falsifying the surveys, in order to get possession of the diamond fields; with mistreating the natives and Boers, and with other reprehensible things. He concluded with an appeal that America intervene to stop hostilities, and reiterated the statement that European nations would have intervened if they had but known how the United States stands."

THE CUBAN PROBLEM.

Will Be Taken Up When Puerto Rico Is Out of the Way.

NEW YORK, March 15.—A special to the Times from Washington says: "The President has ordered the year allowed by the treaty of peace with Spain for the Spanish inhabitants of Cuba to decide whether they will be Cuban or Spanish citizens will expire. Immediately after that date, April 11, according to the programme laid down by the Administration at the opening of the present session of Congress, preparations are to be made for the holding of municipal elections and ultimately for the election of a convention which will decide upon the Cuban form of government. To that government, according to the original programme, the United States is to surrender the control of the island."

Whether that programme will be carried out in its entirety cannot certainly be said. The Senate committee on Cuban affairs has the subject before it. The plan was Senator Foraker's, and he secured the consent of the Administration to it at a time when powerful interests were contending for a different policy, and when they had progressed so far that the plan had been announced to the public as the President's plan. Senator Foraker is confident that it will be adopted, and it is understood that this is the reason why he is so anxious for the immediate adoption of a civil government for Puerto Rico, with or without a tariff annex. He wants Puerto Rico out of the way. It is said, in time for the bigger Cuban problem to have a free field.

Senator Platt, of Connecticut, has started for Cuba with Senators Aldrich and Teller. Senator Platt is chairman of the committee on relations with Cuba, and he, with Senators Aldrich and Teller, form a subcommittee which has been delegated to go to Cuba and study the situation. Nothing has been said about the duration of the stay the three Senators will make. It is understood, however, that their visit relates to the problem of April 11.

DEMOCRATS OF RHODE ISLAND

Platform Declares Against Expansion and Trusts.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 15.—The Democratic State convention today nominated the following ticket: Governor, Nathan Littlefield; Lieutenant-Governor, A. Dutcher; Secretary of State, Clark Potter; General Treasurer, Ezzette Barlett; Attorney-General, D. J. Holland.

The platform begins with a quotation from the Declaration of Independence as to the "certain inalienable rights" with which we are endowed, and continues: "We hold with the Revolutionary heroes that taxation without representation is tyrannical, with Charles Sumner, that the Constitution should be interpreted in the light of the Declaration of Independence, and with Abraham Lincoln, that no man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. No people should be annexed to the United States against their will, and however willing to come, no people should be admitted except to equal rights. A republic cannot afford to have a subject population. The Constitution must always follow the flag—a government of law and not of men."

"When a corporation possesses the power to arbitrarily raise prices or depress wages, it is in effect a trust. Every such trust existing in the United States should be controlled by national legislation, and when based upon a monopoly its special provisions should be abolished."

The Chicago platform is indorsed and reaffirmed.

Evaded From Olympic Reserve.

Secretary Hitchcock this afternoon agreed to the exclusion of approximately 20,000 acres of valley and foothill lands in Chatham County, now inside the Olympic forest reserve. The recommendation was made by Superintendent Sheller, and which have been advocated for fully a year by Senator Foster and the Washington delegation, are approved excepting as regards the northeastern part of Chatham County. The lands now excluded, as recommended, will be examined again with a view to settling the disputed points. No action was taken today regarding the lands desired to be excluded by settlers in Jefferson County.

Monument to Maine Victims.

KEY WEST, Fla., March 15.—The unveiling of the monument dedicated by citizens of Key West to the heroes of the battle ship Maine, who died in Havana February 15, 1898, and who were buried here, took place this afternoon. Over 10,000 people were present.

Rev. Charles W. Frazer, the orator of the day, made an eloquent speech, and the benediction was pronounced by Chaplain Royce. After the unveiling hundreds of school children covered the graves with wreaths and flowers.

An Impossible Tax?

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Acting Secretary Melkington informs the Senate that it is practically impossible for the War Department, without additional clerical assistance, to comply with the resolution introduced by Senator Turner, calling upon that department for a detailed statement of the amounts paid to individual officers and enlisted men brought home from the Philippines on account of travel pay and subsistence, and also to bounty paid to soldiers in the Philippines for enlistment.

Furniture Factory Destroyed.

MUSKEGON, Mich., March 15.—Fire tonight destroyed the Sals & Maxwell Furniture Factory, with its contents. The loss is estimated at \$200,000.

## WHEN IT BLOWS OVER

Tariff Men Wait for Popular Clamor to Abate.

HOPING FOR AN ADJUSTMENT

Quay Supporters in Hard Straits—Populists in a Dilemma—Fond for Harbor Improvements.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—It is evident that the Puerto Rico tariff men of the Senate have come to the conclusion that they cannot pass their bill at the present time, for the reason they have consented to allow the matter to wait until some adjustment can be reached. The fact that they are hoping that the clamor throughout the country will abate, and that the letter from the cabinet officer and the pledges that have been made by various Senators and Representatives in favor of imposing a tariff on the dependencies will have the effect of checking the demand that the message of the President be carried out, and that free trade be given to Puerto Rico. The tariff Senators are very much afraid that any free-trade amendment that is offered to the Foraker bill now pending will delay the vote on this subject as long as possible.

Foreing the Quay Case.

The bitterness which the Quay people manifest toward those who oppose the seating of Quay, and who desire to debate the situation, indicates that they are in very hard straits. It is evident that some of the pledges which are out in favor of Quay are likely to expire, and for this reason efforts are being made to get a vote at once. Penrose, who was named Senator by Quay, has been urged by his former colleague and present boss to force a vote, and that is what he appears to be doing. The forcing process is not very satisfactory to a large number of Senators, and even those who intend to vote for Quay may be compelled to postpone the case on account of the determination of Penrose to force them to vote ahead of their time.

Populists Where Fleecked.

The Populists are not quite happy in having their convention so far ahead of the Democratic National Convention. At the time a date was fixed, the Bryanites sought to make the Populists believe that they were running a race with the Democracy for the nomination of Bryan. The Gorman element in the Democratic party prevailed and held the Democratic convention in New York, and the nomination of Bryan May 15 by the Populists a ridiculous farce. Besides, many of the Middle-of-the-Roaders are raising a stiff cry against Bryan.

A suggestion has been made with bare foundation, that the managers of the Sioux Falls early convention, Allen and Stout and their kind, will put up a "straw ticket" at Sioux Falls, and after the Democrats have nominated Bryan at Kansas City, use the ticket for a trading purpose by agreeing to withdraw it under certain pledges. This would be rather a shrewd move, and might insure the return of Butler and Allen to the Senate by Democratic support in North Carolina, and, if they have any control in Nebraska, many other offices could be traded at the same time. The offices are now the principal object of the Populist party.

A River and Harbor Fund.

Chairman Burton, of the river and harbor committee, says that while there is not the slightest possibility of a river and harbor bill at this session, his committee is considering the advisability of recommending an appropriation of about \$500,000 as an emergency fund for river and harbor improvements. Such a fund would, of course, be general in character, but Mr. Burton says if the appropriation is made a portion of it would undoubtedly be allotted to the improvement of the mouth of the Columbia. Further than this, Mr. Burton says it will be absolutely impossible to secure any money for this great project until the next river and harbor bill is passed. But his committee has had the Department in the past has opposed all such emergency appropriations, and may do so this year.

Railroad Land in Forest Reserve.

Representative Wilson, of Idaho, today introduced a resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to inform the House as to the number of acres now included within forest reserves belonging to land-grant railroad companies, the amount of forest reserves which have been reserved, the market value of said scrip, and the estimated value of the land in lieu of which said scrip was issued, together with a statement showing whether the request for the creation of said forest reserves came from the people residing within the states where said reserves are created or from the land-grant railroad companies, who have thus been enabled to exchange lands of little value for forest-reserve scrip worth many times the value of the lands in lieu of which it was issued.

Evaded From Olympic Reserve.

Secretary Hitchcock